

Another classic for Tagg | Jump racing returns | Maryland-bred wins Delaware Oaks

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

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Late Action

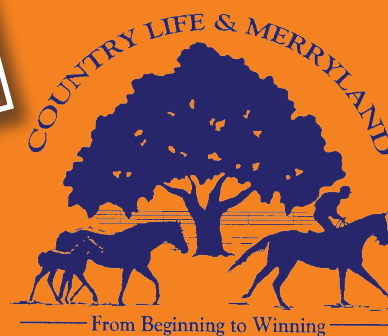
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2-year-old for sixth consecutive year*

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VIOLA JASKO/NYRA

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In this issue

Late but strong, 2-year-old sale rocks at Timonium

In the midst of a pandemic, things change. Even Thoroughbred sales. Fasig-Tipton Midlantic moved its flagship sale to late June, kept most of its buyers and sellers on board and for the sixth consecutive year featured a seven-figure horse atop the scoreboard. Marylander Michael Lund Petersen spent \$1.1 million on the Virginia-bred sales-topper. By Joe Clancy. [Page 16](#)

Trainer Barclay Tagg gets his Triple Crown

In a life in racing, trainer Barclay Tagg has gone from jump jockey to regional trainer to the biggest stages in the country (with 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide). For an encore, Tagg is back on the national stage with top 3-year-old Tiz the Law, who won the Belmont Stakes in June and had eyes on the Travers, Kentucky Derby and Preakness. By Sean Clancy. [Page 24](#)

Maryland-bred wins Delaware Oaks

Owner Chuck Zacney's yearling purchases of 2018 continued to shine as Maryland-bred Project Whiskey landed the Grade 3 Delaware Oaks. By Joe Clancy. [Page 32](#)



Two meets hold fort on jump schedule

The 2020 spring steeplechase schedule featured two main themes—postponed and canceled—until the Middleburg Spring Races and Virginia Gold Cup held on long enough to run in June. By Sean Clancy. [Page 34](#)

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Cover: Delayed due to the pandemic, Fasig-Tipton Midlantic finally hosted its 2020 sale of 2-year-olds, and saw a strong market led by the sales-topping Virginia-bred colt. Fasig-Tipton Photo.

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Statement from Maryland Racing Commission

As addressed in the Maryland Racing Commission's letter dated April 10, 2020, the Breeder and Stallion bonuses will be evaluated and paid once Maryland Bred Race Fund's revenue streams are studied and the Maryland Racing Commission approves percentages and a payment plan.

The approved plan will require that the percentages and timing be based on the funds available. This policy went into effect with the return of live racing on May 30, 2020.



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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 28, Issue 8

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (410) 560-0503
MidAtlanticTB.com

Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
brightier@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
williams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: Sara Gordon
sgordon@marylandthoroughbred.com

Senior writers:
Sean Clancy
sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law
tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services:
registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

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Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Cricket Goodall, *executive director*, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100.

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey, Mike Campbell, *executive director*, 265 Highway 36, Suite 1R, West Long Branch, NJ 07764. (732) 542-8880.

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association, Rebecca Montaldo, *president*, NCTA, P.O. Box 76, Fayetteville, NC 28302. (910) 261-7595.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, Brian N. Sanfratello, *executive secretary*, 701 E. Baltimore Pk., Ste. C-3, Kennett Square, PA 19348. (610) 444-1050.

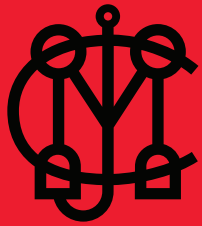
South Carolina Thoroughbred Association, Jack Sadler, *president*, 101 Ellenton Street SE, Aiken, SC 29803. (803) 920-9005.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association, Debbie Easter, *executive director*, Easter Associates Inc., 250 West Main St., Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902. (434) 977-3176.

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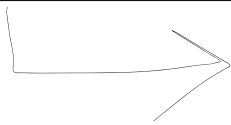
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POST TIME

LONELY GAME. Gamine, who sold for a record \$1.8 million at Timonium in 2019, storms home with the Acorn Stakes-G1 on Belmont Stakes Day at a nearly empty Belmont Park June 20.

Scott Serio/Eclipse Sportswire



SAY IT AGAIN

“Hello, this is Brad Sham—voice of the Dallas Cowboys . . .”

The beginning of consignor Al Pike’s voice mail message; sorry, but go Eagles (or Ravens)

“I’m giving away all my damn secrets . . . so all that’s off the record.”

Pike, while talking about buying yearlings to pinbook (mum’s the word)

“I’ve never seen so much of Donato in my life. He was around a lot.”

Pike, on bloodstock agent Donato Lanni, who bought the \$1.1-million sales topper

“People always ask, ‘Oh, is it really quiet there?’ and I have to say, ‘No, it’s named after the horse.’ They don’t know what to say after that.”

Lanni, who lives on Real Quiet Lane

“We mourned for about 24 hours and we said, ‘OK, mourning’s over; let’s get back to work.’”

Fasig-Tipton’s Boyd Browning, about the changing landscape of horse sales during a pandemic

GO FIGURE

216.00 Win payoff for a \$2 ticket when 107-1 shot Promise Illgetyou won the ninth race at Monmouth Park July 5. Owner/trainer Bill Hogan’s 7-year-old scored by a head over 65-1 So Hot with 108-1 Shoeless third. Show prices were \$32, \$21.20 and \$34 respectively. The \$1 exacta paid \$1,075.10 while the 50-cent trifecta went for \$2,826.40.

4.3 Times their purchase price three yearlings purchased at Timonium in 2018 have earned for owner Chuck Zacney and partners (through July 7). Ebo Special (\$92,540 in earnings), Monday Morning Qb (\$120,000) and Project Whiskey (\$262,580 including a Delaware Oaks-G3 win) cost \$110,000 total and have earned \$475,120.

Classy class produces classy fillies



Class IV of the 2018 MHBA Yearling Show included (clockwise from top left) Sharing, class winner Project Whiskey with judge Rick Violette, Twirling Win, Yougottabekitten, Combat Queen, and Anima Gemella.

The 18 fillies in Class IV at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association’s 2018 yearling show put on a show then—and are making it quite an encore as racehorses.

The group included Grade 1 winner and 2019 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year **Sharing**, who opened this year with a stakes win at Churchill Downs and a second in the Coronation Stakes-G1 at Royal Ascot in June, but that’s not all. **Project**

Whiskey, who won the class for breeder Dark Hollow Farm, won the Delaware Oaks-G3 in July—her third win from seven starts while pushing her earnings figure to \$262,580 for Cash is King and LC Racing. **Anima Gemella**, second in the class for Sagamore Farm, won a maiden race at Laurel Park in June. Other winners from the class include **Combat Queen** (fourth in the class), **Yougottabekitten** and **Twirling Wind**.

MILESTONES

Canceled: For 2020, the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover and national symposium, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Presented by the Thoroughbred Charities of America, the event is scheduled Oct. 12-17, 2021, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, and will separate the classes in all 10 disciplines for 2020 and 2021 entries. The Thoroughbred Makeover typically draws hundreds of competitors, each of whom has taken on the challenge of bringing along a Thoroughbred in his or her first year of retraining post-racing. In a normal year, the event also includes the ASPCA Makeover Marketplace (a large-scale horse shopping experience), a vendor fair, seminars, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Summit and various social and networking events. To comply with Covid-19 guidelines, many of those aspects, which monetize a significant portion of the event, would have had to be eliminated or heavily modified. RRP also surveyed trainers, who expressed concern about having horses adequately prepared for the show environment, as well as financial concerns due to lost income during shutdowns. Furthermore, every state's pandemic guidelines were different which had, and continues to have, an impact on competitors. Several aspects of the 2020 TCA Thoroughbred Makeover will be run virtually this year in October, including a virtual vendor fair, webinars in place of seminars, and the ASPCA

Makeover Marketplace. The Marketplace will transition into an expanded online showcase of transitioned Thoroughbreds who were intended to compete in October and be offered for sale or adoption at the Makeover. Trainers who entered this year's Thoroughbred Makeover will have the opportunity to retain their registered 2020 horses to compete in a special 2020 division at the 2021 Thoroughbred Makeover. They also have the option to withdraw their 2020 horses and roll their entry fee to the 2021 competition with a new 2021-eligible horse. In some cases, some 2020-entered horses will be able to retain their eligibility for the 2021 division as long as they do not exceed the maximum of 15 retraining rides before Dec. 1, 2020.

Retired: Bobby Lillis, after 21 years as the benefits and benevolence director for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. Lillis, 66, has focused on those who ensure that racehorses receive proper care seven days a week, year-round.



Bobby Lillis

"I have always held backstretch and farm workers near and dear to my heart as I know firsthand the sacrifices that come

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Compound It. Colts Neck Stables' 4-year-old colt, second in a tough Delaware Park allowance July 6, is by Super Saver.

Cowboy Gandhi. Sterling Farm WV's homebred 3-year-old gelding is by Gandhi out of Spaghetti Western. We hear Clint Eastwood is a fan.

Irishtown. Stephen Ferguson's 3-year-old, trained at Laurel Park by Stephen Casey, is out of Rathvilly (an Irish village, and three-time winner of the Irish Tidy Towns Competition, in County Carlow).

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MILESTONES

with their jobs and environment,” Lillis said. He was 15 when he started working as a hot walker for trainer Bob Holthus and lived in a tack room at old Detroit Race Course and later moved to Florida, New Jersey and Maryland as an exercise rider and jockey. Lillis received the Godolphin Thoroughbred Industry Community Award and the Maryland Horse Industry Board’s Touch of Class Award in 2019. He also garnered the Maryland Racing Media Association President’s Award, the Maryland Jockey Club Circle of Excellence Award, the MTHA Outstanding Service to Maryland Horsemen Award and the Thoroughbred Charities of America Distinguished Service Award, and was the Honorary Postmaster at the Alibi Breakfast. Lillis will continue to work with the Maryland Horsemen’s Assistance Fund’s board through the end of 2020, while Tom LaMarra will add backstretch services to his duties with the MTHA.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Virginia Commission: Horses up, purses down at Colonial. Colonial Downs purses would be lower than in 2019 but that the horse population will be up, reports Nick Hahn.

Trailblazer Krone back for new challenge: Hall of Fame jockey Julie Krone remembers her Belmont triumph aboard Colonial Affair and discusses her new challenge as a jockey’s agent in an interview with Hahn.

Delaware Park: A day at the races in the age of Covid-19. Delaware Park became the first Eastern track to permit fans to attend, and The Racing Biz correspondent John Piassek was one of them.

Thorpe riding Dr. Feelgood to prominence: Jockey Darius Thorpe has seized an opportunity to raise his own profile, piloting the speedy Dr. Feelgood to 11 wins in 13 starts at Charles Town. Ted Black reports.

Backtracks—Bee Bee Bee spoils the party: Bee Bee Bee, the Maryland-bred sent out by Trainer Del Carroll to upset the 1972 Preakness over Riva Ridge, is profiled by Jennifer Kelly.

On Breeding—Hoping for a comeback in New Jersey: The hardy band of New Jersey breeders is hoping new developments signal that brighter days are ahead, Linda Dougherty reports.

Pinhook Diary—Finding the way forward: Coronavirus has posed challenges, but Chelsea Lowman’s pinhooking project, PJ, is thriving and maybe the path forward is getting clearer.



When racing resumed after Covid19 cancellations, Mill-fueled horses went right back to **running and winning** races. Since mid-May, 110 winners, among them 23 allowance winners, 13 maiden special winners and 14 stakes winners, including Maryland-bred horse of the year SHARING.

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Pinhookers' Scorecard

Despite being delayed more than a month, Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., in late June produced its sixth consecutive seven-figure sales-topper—and plenty of other fireworks. The results included these pinhooking successes among horses who sold for \$150,000 or more, and exceeded previous auction prices by \$100,000 (or 100 percent). Nobody on this list outdid Hip 242 (right), a Maryland-bred Paynter colt who sold for nearly 17 times his purchase price at last year's Fasig-Tipton yearling sale at Timonium.



- \$875,000** b.c. Candy Ride (Arg)—Causara, by Giant's Causeway.
ftk oct 19 \$175,000. Sold by Wavertree Stables to Gary Young.
- \$650,000** ch.c. Not This Time—Sanctissima, by Indian Charlie.
ftm oct 19 \$40,000. Classic Bloodstock; Lauren Carlisle.
- \$500,000** b.f. Into Mischief—Global Hottie, by Dixie Chatter.
kee sept 19 \$150,000. Hobby & Layna Kight; Lauren Carlisle.
- \$400,000** dk.b./br.f. Upstart—Plum, by Pure Prize.
ftm oct 19 \$120,000. Cary Frommer; Sallusto/Albina.
- \$375,000** b.c. Tiznow—Tanglewood Tale, by Tale of the Cat.
ftn aug 19 \$130,000. Bobby Dodd; Ron Ellis.
- \$350,000** dk.b./br.c. Constitution—Sonorous, by Unbridled's Song.
kee nov 18 \$25,000. Golden Rock; Chuck Zacney/DJ Stable.
- \$325,000** dk.b./br.f. American Pharoah—Choice Pearl, by Any Given Saturday.
ftk oct 19 \$75,000. Kirkwood Stables; Speedway Stable.
- \$325,000** gr./ro.c. Liam's Map—One Foxy Grey, by Big Brown.
kee nov 18 \$67,000. All Dreams Equine; Cool Breeze Racing.
- \$310,000** dk.b./br.f. Dialed In—Fall Fantasy, by Meniffee.
kee sept 19 \$165,000. SBM Training & Sales; Lauren Carlisle.
- \$300,000** b.c. Tapiture—Trisha, by Forest Camp. *ftk oct 19 \$130,000.*
Clary Bloodstock; RA Hill/Spedale Racing/Oracle Bloodstock.
- \$290,000** dk.b./br.f. Tonalist—Holiday Apple, by Harlan's Holiday.
ftm oct 19 \$75,000. Kirkwood Stables; Sackatoga Stable.
- \$280,000** ch.f. Munnings—Cloudburst, by Storm Cat.
kee sept 19 \$72,000. Julie Davies; Bradley Thoroughbreds.
- \$270,000** dk.b./br.f. Twirling Candy—Apple Cider, by More Than Ready.
ftm oct 19 \$30,000. Grassroots Training & Sales; Dennis O'Neill.
- \$200,000** ch.c. Not This Time—Choir, by Pulpit.
ftk oct 19 \$30,000. Pike Racing; Gold Square/Jeremiah Englehart.
- \$200,000** b.f. Cinco Charlie—Lantern, by Mineshaft.
ftk july 19 \$75,000. Cary Frommer; Belladonna Racing.
- \$180,000** b.c. American Pharoah—Mir Cat, by Tale of the Cat.
kee sept 19 \$50,000. Bobby Dodd; High Point Bloodstock/Iris Smith.
- \$175,000** ch.c. Constitution—Red Moon Girl, by Malibu Moon.
ftk oct 19 \$25,000. Grassroots Training & Sales; Franklin Ave. Equine/Jon Green.
- \$175,000** ch.c. Speightster—Rivertown Belle, by Bellamy Road.
kee sept 19 \$80,000. Wavertree Stables; SGV.
- \$175,000** dk.b./br.f. Twirling Candy—Who's Cozy, by Cozzene.
ftm oct 19 \$87,000. Julie Davies; Cash is King.
- \$170,000** ch.c. Liam's Map—Hearts of Red, by Lion Heart.
kee sept 19 \$80,000. Scanlon Training & Sales; New Farm.
- \$160,000** dk.b./br.f. Air Force Blue—Ethel Anna, by Storm Cat.
kee sept 19 \$35,000. L.G. Agent; Steve Young.
- \$150,000** b.f. Freud—Russian Rosie (Ire), by Traditionally.
ftk oct 19 \$18,000. Randy Miles; Greyhound Stable/HTB Stable.
- \$150,000** b.c. Paynter—Sincerely, by Meadowlake.
ftm oct 19 \$9,000. Grassroots Training & Sales; Cash is King.

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Cugino



MAGGIE KIMMITT

In the show ring, he is Ferdinand The Bull. At home, he is Ferdinand (never Ferd or Fred). To The Jockey Club, he's Cugino. By any name, he has been the ultimate partner and family horse for Megan Childs Campbell for 15 years.

She chose the nickname for the dark bay gelding by Cozzene out of the Kris S. mare High Hatted shortly after meeting him at Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue in 2005. Bred in Kentucky by CandyLand Farm, Cugino went through the sales ring twice: at Keeneland November in 2000, and Keeneland September in 2001. He returned to CandyLand on both occasions, a \$55,000 buy-back as a weanling and a \$62,000 RNA as a yearling.

Cugino went into training but never made it to the races, instead adopted out by CandyLand for a different career. When that situation proved short-lived, the horse returned again. Farm manager Mike Palmer then reached out to MAHR co-founder and president Beverly Strauss.

"Before the horse left the first time, Mike Palmer's daughter had been jumping him," Strauss said. "When he came back, he wouldn't go. I sat on him for how many days waiting him out. He would just pin his ears and refuse to move. When Megan came, I told her she would basically be getting a pony ride on a lead line in order for him to move. She adopted him in spite of that and in a very short time had him walking, trotting and cantering nicely. I asked her what did it—a cattle prod or a carrot on a stick? She laughed and said he just didn't like to be kicked."

A lifelong horsewoman, Megan Childs was at that time a recent graduate of Salisbury University. The Annapolis, Md., native grew up riding, showing and preparing young horses for the racetrack. While in college, she continued to ride, train and teach lessons. Upon graduation, she returned to the Annapolis area to begin her professional career in software

development. She also decided it was time to have another horse. Searching online, she saw Cugino on the MAHR website.

"Bev had not had the horse terribly long," Childs said. "The breeder said they didn't understand what happened because he was the sweetest baby and the easiest to handle. But it just didn't work out with the new owner, and he came back difficult to ride. He was advertised by Bev as a special-needs case. They just had one photo of his head on the website and the ad said, 'Contact for more information' as opposed to the other horses, which are usually under-saddle photos."

The listing mentioned that Cugino would require an experienced trainer/rider. Megan, 22, dove in.

"That's me—I can do that," she told herself.

Megan's tryout was, as Strauss said, little more than sitting on the gelding's back. He swished his tail and refused to move when urged, "but never did

anything ridiculous. He'd act like a big bad guy but wasn't, and I felt like I could deal with him. And he was absolutely stunning. So I said right there I'd take him."

Megan's favorite children's book came to mind. Like Munro Leaf's title character, Cugino was more interested in smelling flowers than fighting. From that day forward, he was Ferdinand The Bull.

They competed in hunter, jumper and equitation divisions at shows all over Maryland, including a few "A" rated events. They also enjoyed success through the novice level in eventing. When Megan's son Colt Childs, now 7, came along, he was happily held on Ferdinand's back before he was old enough to walk. Colt offered that he and Ferdinand have won ribbons in lead-line classes.

In 2016, Megan purchased the house she and her family now share in Henderson, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. And Cugino was a major factor in the selection of that home.

"I did it basically so Ferdinand could have some place to retire and I'd have space to get another horse. And I did everything myself; it was just a yard. The house was here, and a friend and I did all the fencing and put in the run-in shed. It was perfect and just what I was looking for."

On Christmas Eve 2016, Megan led Ferdinand off the trailer and into his new home.

"He didn't bat an eye at anything. I would have expected him to look around a little bit, but he was like, 'I'm home with my mom.'"

When Megan married Tim Campbell, he had never ridden. Thanks entirely to Cugino, Tim is now comfortable in the saddle and willing to take on bigger challenges.

"Wicomico Hunt is closest to us, and they do open hunts. I was thinking it would be fun to join one of those this year and potentially take Tim and Ferdinand. It's all flat, no jumping. And one of the greatest things about Ferdinand is that even though he showed and was very competitive in jumpers and eventing, he is a trail horse extraordinaire. I take him all the time up to Tuckahoe State Park, which is right up the road from here, as well as other county and state parks. We just trailer over."

Over the past several months, two more Thoroughbreds have joined the fold. Spicy Girl Red (Point Given—Auspice, by Robellino) is a 6-year-old MAHR graduate who won four of 31 starts and earned \$94,852. Now called Vada, she is coming along slowly to develop into Ferdinand's successor in the show ring. Six-year-old Gift Banda (GB), a winning son of Compton Place called Biggie, is ready to show.

Megan and Tim had their first child a year ago, and during the last few months of her pregnancy and after delivery, Cugino was given some downtime. Now 20, he's starting to get a little arthritic.

"Just here and there I can feel that stiffness and changes in the hind end a little bit. He's just now beginning to develop that old man topline, but otherwise he's in great shape. So we might do a few small shows this summer. I ride with Hilary Gibbons-Neff in Easton, which is about 30 minutes from here, and we'll discuss it. He's been such a good show horse, but also so trustworthy with my husband and children. The perfect all-around family horse."

The family horse with the sophisticated name.

"Ferdinand is kind of a cumbersome nickname, but Ferd just doesn't suit him. He's too majestic and regal looking for that." ❀



Exposure

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TODD MARKS

Summer brings a little stability to racing's storm

How's your summer going? If you're reading this, you've probably experienced a little bit of everything—success, failure, status quo, good news, bad news, darkness, bright lights, confidence, doubt . . . The list of 2020 experiences for Thoroughbred racing could go in any direction imaginable—and unimaginable.

For now, a little stability feels nice. Or it did in July. By August, when you're reading this . . . well, who really knows? After two-plus months without racing, regional tracks came back and the mid-summer schedule looked relatively normal with racing at Charles Town, Delaware Park, Laurel Park, Monmouth Park, Parx Racing and Penn National. On the horizon, Presque Isle Downs and Colonial Downs were about to start. There were racing opportunities again.

Charles Town announced that its signature race, the Charles Town Classic-G2, would run Aug. 28. Delaware ran the Oaks-G3 and Handicap-G2 in July, the Haskell-G1 was about to happen at Monmouth Park.

Even steeplechasing somehow carded two race meets in June, saving a little something for horses and horsemen who lost 14 race meets and more than \$2 million in purses due to the coronavirus pandemic. Jump racing at Saratoga and Colonial Downs would be a welcome respite before the sport's leaders tackled the difficult question of what to do with the fall season (Aiken has already canceled its October date).

Fasig-Tipton hosted its 2-year-old sale at Timonium at the end of June, six weeks late and not without some angst, and made like Eddie Murray—hit a home run with another million-dollar juvenile and solid numbers across the board.

Regional racing fans even got a chance to cheer on some national success as Barclay Tagg and Robin Smullen won the Belmont Stakes-G1 with Tiz the Law. Tagg and Smullen are both from Pennsylvania. He used to ride steeplechasers, was a regular in Camden, S.C., won his first race as a trainer at Liberty Bell near Philadelphia, trained in Maryland for years. She galloped for Dr. John Fisher. Her family hosted horse shows at the farm outside Oxford, Pa. Tagg and Smullen took the New York/Florida track, and hit it big with Kentucky Derby-G1 and Preakness Stakes-G1 winner Funny Cide in 2003. They've got another good one in Tiz the Law, whose goals included Saratoga's Travers-G1 in August, the Derby in September and the Preakness in October (yes, it's still hard to write it that way).

Some of the best news, for me, came in reading the results. Maybe they're easier to spot coming out of eight to 10 weeks without racing, but the early returns seemed to belong to horses from smaller stables, longshots and (described with great admiration) the little guys.

Hassan Elamri won a race at Laurel as a breeder, owner and trainer. Gordie Keys won with a homebred trained by Madison

Meyers, her first win outside the steeplechase circuit. Owner/breeder Vivian Rall and trainer Ann Merryman teamed up to win a race.

Tim Woolley didn't run a horse between Feb. 22 and June 1, stayed in business and sent Samui Sunset out for a win July 11. Woolley's Fair Hill Training Center neighbor Lizzie Merryman, idle from mid-March until the end of May, got on the board with her homebred Caravel at Penn National in June. Carl Doran won two races in July after losing his first 23 starts in 2020.

Another Fair Hill trainer, Richard Lugovich, won two races at the Belmont meet with homebreds—his only two starters of 2020 through July 14.

At Parx, trainer Leslye Bouchard won her first two races of the year in June and July. Through the first four days of racing at Monmouth Park, Rory Huston, Douglas Nunn, Michael Simmonds and Frank Russo had trained as many winners (one) as Chad Brown. Nunn's paid \$149.60 to win.

At Delaware Park, Jamie Ness of course led the way with eight wins from more than double the starts of anyone else, but behind him looked like the entrance to the Fort McHenry Tunnel before E-ZPass—jumbled. Three trainers had four wins (one of those, Tim Ritchey, was undefeated); five had three wins, 13 had two. More than 100 had at least one through 12 days of racing.

Why did we see such trends? Heck, I don't know but I'll venture a guess—smaller-time trainers can train horses, in a pandemic, not in a pandemic, whenever. Maybe the break in the racing calendar leveled the playing field, at least for a little while. Perhaps the big stables couldn't find their grooves without racing action, without run-backs, without claims. The waiver-claiming rules in effect on the restart at many tracks certainly helped. Maybe the smaller stables focused on the details, trained their horses without target dates and were ready when the curtains lifted. It might just be luck, but it sure was fun to watch. More owners should take note. 🌟

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Pike's Place

*After six-week pandemic delay, consignor tops
Timonium 2-year-old sale for second time in five years*

By Joe Clancy. Fasig-Tipton photos

Al Pike might be the only guy who goes to Fasig-Tipton's select yearling sale in Saratoga looking for a discount, but the strategy works and the Louisiana-based horseman isn't about to change now.

"They do such a good job bringing the best of the best there that they can't all bring top dollar," he said. "They never slip through the cracks, but people are looking for the goods up there and if a horse isn't quite the goods you can slip around and find one that's a little over in its knees or is in the middle of a funny growing thing and get lucky."

The strategy paid off big time with the Uncle Mo colt who topped Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., in June. The Virginia-bred did not meet his reserve (after bids up to \$185,000) at Saratoga in 2019, but sold to Pike privately afterward, and grew into a sought-after 2-year-old who joined the stable of trainer Bob Baffert on a bid of \$1.1 million by agent Donato Lanni. Buying for Marylander Michael Lund Petersen, Lanni landed another potential star after getting undefeated filly Gamine for \$1.8 million at Timonium last year and Grade 1 winner Mucho Gusto for \$625,000 in 2018.

"Al Pike brought a good horse to the sale," said Lanni. "I congratulate him for buying one like that as a yearling and keeping him in such good shape for that long. The sale was six weeks later than it was supposed to be, and he brought a really nice horse there."

Timonium's flagship sale was indeed pushed back six weeks (from May 18-19 to June 29-30) due to the coronavirus pandemic and had to clear a variety of state and local protocols to occur at all. Despite the uncertainty, the sale featured a million-dollar purchase for the sixth consecutive year and total returns of \$23,572,500 for 303 horses sold from a catalogue of 557 that went down to 375 offered after withdrawals. That gross figure, the \$77,797 average and \$40,000 median were down a bit from 2019 but on par with 2018. Seventy-two horses were listed as not sold, compared to 99 last year.

"We're ecstatic with the results of the sale," said Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning. "There were very trying circumstances. We got significant support from consignors and buyers alike, and they were rewarded because those horses sold well. There was a vibrant, active market on all levels. We're grateful we were able to accomplish it. The Timonium fairgrounds was fantastic to work with, they really went above and beyond and tried hard. Everyone was committed to making it work."

Online bidding was conducted, and 96 horses received online bids with 14 reported sold online. Coordinated by Fasig-Tipton's Max Hodge in Kentucky, the online bidding setup included a designated bid-spotter in Timonium and the process worked.

"We really didn't have any idea what to expect, but they were treated just like an in-person bidder or more in terms of a phone bidder," Browning said. "Hopefully we'll continue to learn how to improve and do a better job. I think it's here and will be part of the process for a long, long time."

Fasig-Tipton put several health measures in place including temperature checks, a screening questionnaire for all attendees, face masks, reduced seating capacity in the sales pavilion, no food service in the pavilion, no valet parking and increased cleaning and disinfection procedures. Horses were led into the ring by consignor employees, rather than Fasig-Tipton staff.

"You try to minimize or reduce the contact, the exchange of things and the contact with surfaces, and try to be as creative as possible," Browning said. "The folks in our Maryland office persevered, they did a lot of work through ups and downs and lots of changes, and pushing back of things. There was no playbook, they had to invent it as they went along."

In the end, a few major Florida consignors stayed away and others reduced their consignments by selling privately—meaning the horses sold were closer to 300 than 350 for the first time since 2015.

The conditions did little to dissuade buyers, who—as usual—pursued quality horses at the top end of the market. The middle may have presented a chance to find some bargains, but the two-day sale offered plenty for everyone. Bids came from big-name agents and owners plus trainers of all levels from the region and beyond. The seven-figure leader was counterbalanced by 26 horses selling for \$10,000 or less.

"Timonium's been a good place for me," said Pike. "It's a really good market. You make all the excuses you want—the track is a bull ring, it's this or it's that. Really good horses show up, really good horsemen show up and it turns into a really good horse sale. It's a pretty good deal for everybody."

Thanks to the pandemic, Pike will have to tweak his business model in 2020 as the Saratoga yearling sale won't happen. Fasig-Tipton opted for a select sale at its main



The Pike family (Colt, Salley and Al) brought a potential star to Timonium in 2020 as the Uncle Mo colt brought \$1.1 million on a bid by agent Donato Lanni for Marylander Michael Lund Petersen.



base in Kentucky Sept. 9-10. Browning expects to see Pike there.

"When that catalogue comes out a lot of people will be very, very surprised on the quantity and quality of horses in the catalogue," he said. "We've received great support on it, and for our fall yearling sale at Timonium in October."

From Virginia, by way of Saratoga

Bred in Virginia by Ann Backer, the sales-topper was supposed to be a banner Saratoga yearling—and was until he got ahead of himself at the wrong time. Consigned for Backer by Taylor Made Sales, but prepped by the staff at Backer's Smitten Farm in The Plains, the dark bay colt was overshadowed by some others and did not meet his reserve.

Taylor Made's Frank Taylor knew the colt, a March foal out of the Mineshaft mare Miss Ocean City, fit in the catalogue in terms of pedigree, look, all of it.

"He got a little bit over in his knees and I think that just held him back a little bit," Taylor said. "He was a very nice horse at Saratoga, and just didn't come quite to where he needed to."

Backer wanted to sell, and Taylor worked on Pike.

"I didn't think I could afford the colt," Pike said. "Frank came up to me and said he was kind of falling through the cracks.

The horse grew off a little too fast. Frank said you ought to see if you can't buy this horse. They RNA'd him and I was the first one to him and said, 'Maybe I can afford him.'"

Pike put together a small partnership, closed the deal and took the colt home to Louisiana. He turned heads from the beginning, and was pointed for Timonium's traditional May date a few days after the Preakness Stakes-G1 in nearby Baltimore. Pike typically sells 12 to 15 horses at various 2-year-old sales, and tends to spread them out. As other sales were canceled, the Timonium consignment bloomed from three to 10.

"I was planning to bring him there all along simply because I had some really good colts and we try to spread them around," Pike said. "He was always marketed for up there because he's so athletic. It's usually the last sale of the year and I just kind of thought he could be a standout. That was the plan. All that got turned up on its head, but he still turned out to be a standout."

The delay kept Pike working as he backed off his horses a little, stayed in touch with Fasig-Tipton and tried to simply wait. Easier said than done.

"Easy breezes for him were eye dropping," Pike said of the works at home. "You hold your breath. He looks like he's two-minute licking, but you look at your

watch and you're 'Oh my God.' Then all the sales were canceling. We've got to breeze him, he breezes way too fast, but if we don't breeze him he won't be fit up there. I didn't sleep for a month. He went up there with two breezes, maybe, in the last five or six weeks. We're not asking him to go fast. He just does it. In my mind, I think he's a big pretty horse; he can't be going that fast but he can—anyway, I lost a lot of sleep."

And a little more at Timonium as during the breeze show June 24, the colt made contact with the inside rail in mid-stretch and briefly knocked himself off stride. He still finished up in :10 for a furlong, one of 11 horses to do so.

"He'd never made a mistake since I owned him, never spooked from anything, never turned a hair, never boogered up anything," Pike said. "He saw a photographer or somebody and for whatever reason it scared him. It didn't slow him down much, he's just a really good horse."

Lanni watched the work, and flinched, but trusted his instincts.

"When he came off the turn, he exploded so fast that he just went left a little bit, bounced off the rail and then he just stayed on the rail," he said. "He still went quick. Being on the rail on that track is not the ideal place to be. A lot of horses are in the three or four path the whole way. Good ones do amazing things on that racetrack."



homebred stakes winners Art Fan, Art Show, Blind Date and Her Smile, the latter sold to Bobby Flay before becoming a Grade 1 winner. Some of the mares have been sold, but Miss Ocean City joined the Smitten team via auction in 2017 (in foal with the Timonium colt). Miss Ocean City has produced Grade 2 winner Azar, and is a half-sister to graded winner Woodlander. Others in the family include Grade 2 winner Coal Front and Grade 1 winners Twilight Agenda, Refuse to Bend (Ire) and Go and Go (Ire). Miss Ocean City's dam Madam Lagonza was a 1997 yearling purchase by Maryland trainer Leon Blusiewicz, who trained her and her stakes-winning son Admiral Alex.

High-End Demand

Agent Gary Young spent \$875,000 on the sale's second-highest horse, a Candy Ride (Arg) colt sold by Wavertree Stables. The second-session topper sold twice before, for \$215,000 as a weanling at Keeneland November in 2018 and as a yearling for \$175,000 at Fasig-Tipton's October sale.

A Maryland-bred Not This Time colt consigned by Classic Bloodstock checked in third at \$650,000 on a bid by Lauren Carlisle. The price tag thrilled everybody at the Haugh family's Cordelia Stables, which bred the colt and sold him for \$40,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. Cordelia owns the mare Sanctissima, who foaled a full sister to Hip

Pike said his horse was "a little stoved up" afterward, but otherwise came through it and drew plenty of looks at the barn during the next few days and in the back ring and in the pavilion on sales day. Petersen, who founded the now Baltimore-based Pandora Jewelry, owns a farm in Butler and has campaigned Grade 1 winner Mor Spirit, multiple Grade 3 winner Mucho Gusto (who won a Grade 1 after Petersen sold him to Saudi Arabian Prince Faisal bin Khalid) and stakes winner Cat Burglar with Baffert. Gamine, who improved to 3-for-3 with a romp in the Acorn Stakes-G1 at Belmont Park June 20, is the latest star. Petersen—who also has steeplechasers with trainer Jack Fisher—leaves the bidding to Lanni, but is otherwise involved.

"I encourage not only him, but other clients to come to the sale, watch the theatrics, watch the bidding, see the process, enjoy it. That's what it's all about," Lanni said. "It's their money. It's great to see him come to the sale, smoking cigarettes, getting nervous and pacing around. It's great to see a client get that excited, and get to know the horse a little bit."

Petersen's budget gives Lanni and Baffert the freedom to find horses they like, and go after them.

"We're just lucky enough to have a guy with really big guns," Lanni said. "He doesn't let you down. We're very lucky to have a guy like him in our corner."

The sales-topper represents a new chapter for Smitten, which was founded by Ann Backer and her late husband Bill. A noted advertising executive, Bill Backer died in 2016 and left behind a considerable legacy in racing as a member of The Jockey Club, owner and breeder. Among horses campaigned by the Backers were



Agent Gary Young bought the sale's second-highest horse, a colt by Candy Ride (Arg), for \$875,000.

213 in 2019 and a half sister (by Munnings) in 2020. The daughter of Indian Charlie was bred back to The Factor. It's all pretty heady stuff for the Street, Md., farm with 13 stalls and a broodmare band of just three.

"It was so exciting," said Meghan Haugh, who runs the farm with her twin sister Michaela, aunt Kim, father Chip (a veterinarian) and grandfather Charles. "They got a huge return on him and we couldn't believe it. To finally breed something that could sell for that kind of a price tag is a huge accomplishment. We just kept watching the number go up. It was crazy."

On the advice of Sally Thomas, the Haughs bought Sanctissima for \$27,000 at Keeneland November in 2017. In foal to Not This Time, Sanctissima delivered the colt the following February.

"He was a great foal," said Meghan Haugh. "He never was coltish. He's always been professional and that's really true still. Never a biter, never a slapper, easy to get along with, easy to sales prep. He's always been a good-looking guy."

Carlisle, who works with trainer Tom Amoss, agreed and made him the most

expensive of her four purchases totaling \$1,512,000.

"I thought he was the best colt in the whole sale," she said. "There were some nice ones in that same league, but I was kind of leaning toward him. He just had such a presence. His breeze video is amazing, and when you saw him at the barn, he's big, he's scopey, he's very developed, very good muscle, hind end and gaskin and forearm. He looked like a man."

"People want a precocious 2-year-old, and that's kind of what you're looking for."

Sanctissima went back to Not This Time (a son of Giant's Causeway whose first foals are 2-year-olds) in 2018 on something of an accident, but Cordelia is happy to have a full-sister in the barn.

"She was booked to another stallion and he wasn't available, so we played the scramble game and I was like, 'This Not This Time foal is lovely, let's just go back.' We were lucky he was available."

The yearling filly is being aimed for this fall's sale at Timonium, and Carlisle hopes to "give her an update on the pedigree page between now and then."

Carlisle bought the sale's top filly, a daughter of Into Mischief and the Dixie

Chatter mare Global Hottie, for \$500,000. The bay filly, Hip 4, hails from the family of champion Alysheba among others.

"As a seller you never want to be early on the first day because the sale always gets stronger and stronger and a lot of people will wait and see and maybe they're not willing to be as aggressive early," Carlisle said. "She was the only filly on our list for that client. We thought we got a pretty good deal, buying an Into Mischief filly that breezed a really nice quarter. She's got a little bit of pedigree, at the sale she was beautiful."

Carlisle saw the filly a week later at Churchill Downs and the reaction was the same.

"She is so pretty and is just a gorgeous horse," said the buyer. "Her stride is huge, she's very light on her feet and graceful. I hope that translates to being in the winner's circle a lot."

Another Maryland-bred cracked the top 10 as an Upstart filly out of the Pure Prize mare Plum brought \$400,000 on a bid by Sallusto/Albina. The dark bay filly should be familiar to regional racing fans as her dam won the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes for Dark Hollow

TOP-PRICED 2-YEAR-OLDS

Colts

- \$1,100,000** Dk.b./br.c. Uncle Mo—Miss Ocean City, by Mineshaft (Va.); Pike Racing agent; Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni agent.
- \$875,000** B.c. Candy Ride (Arg)—Causara, by Giant's Causeway (Ky.); Wavertree Stables Inc. (Ciaran Dunne) agent V; Gary Young agent.
- \$650,000** Ch.c. Not This Time—Sanctissima, by Indian Charlie (Md.); Classic Bloodstock LLC agent III; Lauren Carlisle agent.
- \$600,000** Ch.c. Flatter—Wildaboutshopping, by Wildcat Heir (Fla.); Cary Frommer LLC agent; Mike Machowsky agent.
- \$375,000** B.c. Tiznow—Tanglewood Tale, by Tale of the Cat (N.Y.); Bobby Dodd agent; Ron Ellis agent.
- \$350,000** Dk.b./br.c. Constitution—Sonorous, by Unbridled's Song (Ky.); Global Thoroughbreds LLC, Golden Rock agent; Charles J. Zacney/DJ Stable.
- \$325,000** Gr./ro.c. Liam's Map—One Foxy Grey, by Big Brown (Ky.); All Dreams Equine agent; Cool Breeze Racing.
- \$300,000** B.c. Tapiture—Trisha, by Forest Camp (Ky.); Clary Bloodstock agent; Ra Hill Spedale Family Racing Oracle Bloodstock agent.
- \$255,000** Ch.c. American Pharoah—Somalia, by Mineshaft (Ky.); Excel Bloodstock (Bruno De Berdt), Scanlon Training & Sales agent; Manganaro Blsk & Perrine Time Thor.
- \$250,000** Ch.c. Frosted—Kokadrie, by Coronado's Quest (Ky.); Pike Racing agent; Breeze Easy.
- \$250,000** B.c. Tapit—Jackpot Joanie, by Giant's Causeway (Ky.); Gulfstream Gallop IV, Kirkwood Stables agent; Ray Willis.
- \$250,000** Gr./ro.c. Frosted—Glorious View, by Pleasant Tap (Ky.); Pike Racing agent; Steven W. Young agent.
- \$210,000** B.c. Union Rags—Song Sung True, by Unbridled's Song (Ky.); Julie Davies LLC agent; Larry Hirsch, Shepherd Equine Advisors agent.

- \$210,000** Dk.b./br.c. Vancouver (Aus)—Past Twilight, by Pulpit (Ky.); Robert Brewer agent; West Point Thoroughbreds Inc./L.E.B. agent.
- \$200,000** Ch.c. Not This Time—Choir, by Pulpit (Ky.); Pike Racing agent; Gold Square LLC/J. Englehart.
- \$200,000** B.c. Twirling Candy—Summer On The Lawn, by First Defence (Ky.); Kings Equine agent; Mayberry Farm.

Fillies

- \$500,000** B.f. Into Mischief—Global Hottie, by Dixie Chatter (Ky.); Hoby & Layna Kight agent; Lauren Carlisle agent.
- \$400,000** Dk.b./br.f. Upstart—Plum, by Pure Prize (Md.); Cary Frommer LLC agent; Sallusto/Albina agents.
- \$325,000** Dk.b./br.f. American Pharoah—Choice Pearl, by Any Given Saturday (N.Y.); Midway Gallop LLC, Kirkwood Stables agent; Speedway Stable.
- \$310,000** Dk.b./br.f. Dialed In—Fall Fantasy, by Meniffee (Ky.); SBM Training and Sales agent; Lauren Carlisle agent.
- \$290,000** Dk.b./br.f. Tonalist—Holiday Apple, by Harlan's Holiday (N.Y.); Kirkwood Stables agent IV; Sackatoga Stable.
- \$280,000** Ch.f. Munnings—Cloudburst, by Storm Cat (Ky.); Julie Davies LLC agent; Bradley Thoroughbreds agent.
- \$270,000** Dk.b./br.f. Twirling Candy—Apple Cider, by More Than Ready (Md.); Grassroots Training & Sales LLC; Dennis O'Neill.
- \$250,000** Dk.b./br.f. Frosted—Yawkey Way, by Grand Slam (Ky.); Hartley/DeRenzo Thoroughbreds; Marc Tacher.
- \$250,000** B.f. Into Mischief—Honour Isabel, by Honour and Glory (Fla.); Cary Frommer LLC agent; Ruis Racing, Rockbridge Bloodstock agent.
- \$200,000** B.f. Cinco Charlie—Lantern, by Mineshaft (Ky.); Cary Frommer LLC agent; Belladonna Racing LLC II.

Farm and trainer Rodney Jenkins in 2011. Two of her foals to race are the winners Spectacular Plum and Toy. Plum's dam Bamba placed in four Maryland stakes and has produced seven winners including the stakes-placed Southside Warrior.

Cary Frommer bought the filly as a yearling at Timonium last fall for \$120,000, and made her part of a 22-horse consignment at the 2-year-old sale. Frommer sold 19 horses for \$2,396,000 to lead all consignors by gross.

Buyer Chuck Zacney missed out on Frommer's Upstart filly and will get over it—eventually—but was active as usual at the sale where he purchased 2005 Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner Afleet Alex in 2004. Things have changed since then.

"It was my first sale and I knew nothing, green as grass," Zacney said. "[Trainer] Tim Ritchey was leading the charge. I started the bidding and then I said, 'Tim you take it over, I'm afraid I'll mess it up.'"

Afleet Alex cost \$75,000, and turned out OK as have many of Zacney's Timonium purchases, though the owner does more of the bidding now. Zacney works with several partners including Glenn Bennett, plus trainers Butch Reid, John Servis, Saffie Joseph Jr. and (new this year) Brittany Russell. They all look at horses, compare notes, consider pedigrees, talk to consignors, get veterinary recommendations and put extra weight on the trainers' opinions while also trying to stay within a budget.

"We loved a horse we were going to go to 250 on and he sold for 650, so that shows you how tough it can be sometimes," he said of the Not This Time colt. "He was on our radar, but I don't think we even raised our arm."

Zacney's Cash is King group bought five horses for \$570,000. Zacney, DJ Stable, Bennett and Ed Braverman teamed up on a \$350,000 Constitution colt and Zacney landed a Maryland-bred filly by Bandbox for \$115,000 in addition to a Weigelia filly purchased by Reid. The Constitution colt, consigned by Golden Rock for Global Thoroughbreds, became a favorite for the group.

"John Servis liked him a lot and we were prepared to go to \$500,000," said Zacney. "We thought he worked really well and John was at Palm Meadows all winter and saw Tiz the Law [a son of Constitution who won the Belmont Stakes in June] train on a daily basis and said there are a lot of similarities."

The horses—bred in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Kentucky—go in various directions, some right to trainers, others to a farm in Florida for a short break before



A Maryland-bred Not This Time colt, bred by Cordelia Stables, sold for \$650,000.



The fireworks started early as Hip 4 (a daughter of Into Mischief) sold for \$500,000 to lead all fillies.

racing. While not quite playing at the level of Lanni and Petersen, Zacney and his group are factors in the Timonium sales landscape and love the variety and selection. That didn't change in 2020, despite the late date, and may have played into buyers' hands a bit.

"On middle-range horses you were getting what felt like a 20-percent discount,

which was nice," Zacney said. "I saw a price reduction in the medium-range horses and that's kind of my range so I was happy to see that. We factor in [state-bred programs] and try to send horses to trainers who can use that."

NOTES: In addition to his sales-topper, Pike put four other juveniles into six fig-



Ten-year figures for 2-year-old sale

	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2020	\$23,572,500	\$77,797	303	19.2	\$1,100,000 dk.b./br.c. by Uncle Mo—Miss Ocean City, by Mineshaft; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent
2019	\$29,374,000	\$90,104	326	23.3	\$1,800,000* Gamine, b.f. by Into Mischief—Peggy Jane, by Kafwain; consigned by Bobby Dodd, agent; purchased by Michael Lund Petersen, Donato Lanni, agent
2018	\$24,868,500	\$74,680	333	22.6	\$1,200,000 Lebron J, b.c. by Medaglia d'Oro—Tapicat, by Tapit; consigned by Hartley/de Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Dennis O'Neill
2017	\$25,237,000	\$76,476	330	19.9	\$1,500,000 Curlin's Honor, ch.c. by Curlin—Franscat, by Stormin Fever; consigned by Hartley/de Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent; purchased by Breeze Easy and John C. Oxley
2016	\$23,136,400	\$68,654	337	25.9	\$1,000,000 Modest Maven, dk.b./br.f. by Uncle Mo—Dream Street, by Tale of the Cat; consigned by Pike Racing, agent; purchased by Chester Broman, Linda Rice, agent
2015	\$22,659,000	\$88,859	255	21.5	\$1,250,000 Garnet, b.f. by Smart Strike—Crystal Current, by A.P. Indy; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXIX; purchased by Ben McElroy, agent
2014	\$19,601,000	\$59,578	329	23.5	\$520,000 Old Mountain Lane, b.c. War Front—Judy's Magic, by Wavering Monarch; consigned by Eisaman Equine, agent; purchased by Steven W. Young, agent.
2013	\$16,675,000	\$66,968	249	14.7	\$450,000 Jazz Player, ch.c. Malibu Moon—Partysip, by Premiership; consigned by Eddie Woods, agent XXI; purchased by Gary Contessa for Wounded Warrior
2012	\$16,721,000	\$53,593	312	24.6	\$575,000 Magic Daddy, ch.c. Scat Daddy—Magical Mist, by Congaree; consigned by Kings Equine, agent VII; purchased by Mercedes Stables
2011	\$16,211,100	\$47,263	343	18.1	\$600,000 Ever So Lucky, b.c. Indian Charlie—Bally Storm, by Summer Squall; consigned by Sequel Bloodstock (Becky Thomas), agent; purchased by EQB Inc., agent

* The highest-priced horse sold at public auction in Maryland.



Leading consignor Cary Frommer sold Hip 173, a \$400,000 Maryland-bred filly out of Plum (below). No word yet on what her pal Mason Grasty (yes, he really is named after the former Fasig-Tipton executive vice president) thought of the sale, but more snacks were definitely needed.



ures, led by two \$250,000 Frosted colts and finished with eight sold for \$2,062,000 (second only to Frommer). Wavertree sold all 12 in its consignment, for \$1,604,000; Kirkwood Stables sold 15 for \$1,478,000, led by a \$325,000 American Pharoah filly purchased by Speedway Stable . . . Carlisle led all buyers by gross and was surprised, but happy. “I wouldn’t say it’s a goal, and we didn’t come in there with a loaded gun

knowing we were going to do it,” she said. “It’s easy to buy horses like that. Are they going to be any good? That’s the question. I was kind of surprised, but proud too.” . . . Maryland sire Bourbon Courage was represented by a \$135,000 Maryland-bred filly purchased by William Sparks from Nomad Farm Training and Sales . . . Pike topped the 2016 sale with a \$1 million Uncle Mo filly. ★

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2020	2019
Offered	375	425
Sold	303	326
Not sold	72	99
Gross	\$23,572,500	\$29,374,000
Average	\$77,797	\$90,104
Median	\$40,000	\$43,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Frosted (8)	\$1,155,000
Twirling Candy (9)	1,115,000
Uncle Mo (1)	1,100,000
Not This Time (4)	990,000
Liam’s Map (6)	972,000

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Candy Ride (Arg) (3)	\$322,667
Not This Time (4)	247,500
Into Mischief (5)	172,000
Liam’s Map (6)	162,000
American Pharoah (5)	159,400

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Cary Frommer, agent (19)	\$2,396,000
Pike Racing, agent (8)	2,062,000
Wavertree Stables, agent (12)	1,604,000
Kirkwood Stables, agent (15)	1,478,000
Kings Equine, agent (23)	1,339,500

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Pike Racing, agent (8)	\$257,750
Bobby Dodd, agent (3)	230,000
Hoby & Layna Kight, agent (5)	156,400
Wavertree Stables, agent (12)	133,667
Cary Frommer, agent (19)	126,105

LEADING BUYERS

Lauren Carlisle, agent (4)	\$1,512,000
Michael Lund Petersen (Donato Lanni, agent) (1)	1,100,000
Gary Young, agent (1)	875,000
Dennis O’Neill (4)	610,000
Mike Machowsky, agent (1)	600,000





TOD MARKS

Tagg Time

*Longtime Mid-Atlantic trainer
completes his Triple Crown*

By Sean Clancy

“I’ve known him my whole life.”

Words used when asked about a friend, a comrade, a peer, a brother in arms, a member of the band. You know a person who has been in your circle so long, it feels like they helped you draw the circle. Old jump riders, they’re in your circle.

When Barclay Tagg won the Belmont Stakes with Tiz the Law June 20, the question was asked and answered.

“I’ve known him my whole life.”

And in a way, I guess I have.

Barclay Tagg rode Nalanx for my father Joe Clancy Sr. at Rolling Rock in 1971. Oh, Rolling Rock, the glorious long-gone bastion of steeplechasing in Ligonier, Pa. Big fences. Big parties. Two days of racing in the same week. Talk about a circle, I was 17 months old when Tagg rode for my dad. Two years after Nalanx, my dad won the amateur hurdle there on board Farmers Lot. My brother, Joe, rode in the last race at Rolling Rock in 1983. And here we are in 2020, writing about Tagg winning the Belmont Stakes with Tiz the Law, to complete his personal Triple Crown, started with Funny Cide’s Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes victories in 2003.

But back in 1971, Tagg was stoking the last embers of a journeyman jump-jockey’s career while my dad was trying to kindle a fledgling trainer’s career, aiming high with a \$1,000 horse, ruled off for not going in the gate, never mind out, at Charles Town long before he met Clancy and Tagg.

Of course, I called Dad when it came to writing a feature about a man I say I’ve known my whole life, ask about Nalanx and the three-day turnaround.

“Did he ride him both days? Did I run him both days?” Dad asked. “He couldn’t keep up on Wednesday...”

I called Joe to find the 1971 steeplechase book in our Fair Hill office, because I can somehow only find 1970 and 1972 on my bookshelf. Joe walked up a flight of stairs, pulled it off the bookshelf, you feel the history.

“Finished fourth behind Bongocero, Shadow II and Stretch II...”

We swooned at the same time.

“Man, those are good horses.”

Joe flipped the pages.

“Whoa, they went to Belmont between the Wednesday and Saturday,” Joe said, skipping through charts of a lost era when jump jockeys were home grown from the hunt field or show ring. “Yeah, finished seventh to Manchu Prince on Saturday. Tagg rode him both times.”

We could almost hear Tagg straight-shoot it to our straight-shooting dad after Nalanx chased icons, cave drawings of our childhood.

“Joe, he’s all right, but he can’t beat those.”

So, Dad ran him back three days later.

“It was over the big old brush fences,” Dad said of Wednesday’s race, the \$5,500 Rolling Rock Hunt Cup. “I could never get Barclay. Hell, I would have ridden him every time I could have gotten him back then. I always got along good with him.”

Now that’s saying something. Every year, when we arrive in Saratoga and see Tagg for the first time since the summer before, he asks about our dad, our family. Not most times. Every time.

“The first race he won was a race on the flat at Radnor, I rode in the race, I was third. He rode all right,” Dad said. “He said once he would have stayed in Pennsylvania fox hunting and having fun if he could have afforded it. He was working for Sheppard, he was doing all right, then [future champion] Michael O’Brien came over from Ireland, hell, he would drive the van, do this, that and everything and that’s when Barclay realized he couldn’t get anywhere. He was fine where he was, but he wasn’t going to do everything others were willing to do to get more rides. He wasn’t going to kiss anybody’s ass.”

No, that didn’t happen then. Or now.

A year after Nalanx chased moonbeams, Tagg was on his own, training horses at Pimlico, with a “board-bill” filly from his old friend Charlie Kelley. Tagg won his first race at Liberty Bell Park, one of eight wins, in 1972. “It’s been a scuffle ever since,” Tagg says still. He might not have driven the van for Sheppard, but he would drive the van for himself.

“He was smart enough to get away from the jumpers when he saw he wasn’t going to go any further,” Dad said. “He was very fiery when he first started, almost had a quick temper but it blew over in a hurry.”

Then my 85-year-old father started laughing.

“I’ll never forget at Timonium...”

Tagg walked to the track with a filly fresh from the farm.

“Just back her up in front of the stands and let her go one and a half as easy as you

can get her around there,” Tagg said to the exercise rider.

Minutes later, the filly whizzed past on the rail.

Tagg turned to dad, “Was that my horse?”

“Yeah.”

“What did I tell him to do? What did I tell him to do? What did I tell him to do?”

That exercise rider learned the definition of fiery.

“He went nuts,” Dad said, still laughing. “He went from casually talking to me to going ballistic.”

The conversation quickly returned to horsemanship, the kind recognized inside the circle and ignored outside it.

“When he was at Timonium, he was struggling,” Dad said. “But we were at Delaware Park a few years later and I could see Barclay coming in there at night grazing horses. He’d always have somebody with him, he’d graze horses for hours. Nobody else was doing it. Nobody ever gave Barclay anything. He worked for anything he ever got.”

And when I realize that’s all I will get from Dad, I looked elsewhere—back into the archives. So far back, the words aren’t digital, they’re in crates in the attic. There is no Google when it comes to the attic.

Eventually, you find the July 2003 *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*, the Preakness Stakes edition, the kingpin issue of the year, especially when Mid-Atlantic connections win the second jewel.

Tagg, a Pennsylvania native, graduate of Penn State’s animal husbandry course, muck-walk-and-ride Maryland graduate, winning the Preakness with Funny Cide? His assistant/partner, Robin Smullen, a horse-crazy kid who grew up on an Oxford, Pa., farm, right there by his side? That’s gold. And there is that ending, the one I knew I didn’t have late into Preakness night, when I was scouring the Pimlico stakes barn, still searching, still shadowing Tagg, still picking at the granite, hoping for the ending, the bookend to the Funny Cide story. Owned by Sackatoga Stable, an improbable syndicate of friends, the New York-bred gelding had upset the Derby, dominated the Preakness and was three weeks away from immortality. For a trainer who had only watched the Preakness with his people—grooms, hotwalkers, exercise riders—from the top of the barn on the backside, who’d never been there before. And there it was, the perfect ending to an inexplicable story.

It goes like this...

Maryland jockey Nik Goodwin congratulated the hometown hero. A woman

handed Tagg a straw hat to sign. Another woman said she loved him. Pimlico’s stable manager Gelo Hall shook his hand and said it as well as anyone.

“Now it’s all worth it,” Hall said. “We need those rich guys but this is good for all the little people. You know time and chance happens to us all.”

And that’s what this one was about. Time and chance. And keeping belief that time and chance will happen to us all.

As the party was still going strong, owner Jack Knowlton and Tagg had another business meeting.

“You have to come over to the Marriott,” Knowlton said to Tagg. “We’re all going over and want you to be there.”

“Jack, I was up at 4:30 this morning while you were sleeping,” Tagg said. “And I’m going to be looking at 2-year-olds at Timonium at 7 in the morning while you all are sleeping. And then I’ll be up the next morning...”

Knowlton nodded his head and smiled. Tagg nodded his head and smiled. One went to the Marriott, the other went to bed. Both at the very top of the game.

I still love that ending.

It’s quintessential Tagg, unwavering in his work ethic and unbudgeable in his dedication to the craft.

I looked through the archives some more and found snippets, slivers of Tagg’s personality, his persona during the journey from riding Nalanx to working for Hall of Famer Frank Whiteley to begging for stalls at Pimlico, to building a reputation as a turf trainer who could strike New York like a stealth bomber to hammering his shingle on the toughest racing circuit in the country.

“Hell yeah, I paid my dues. It’s nice, everybody’s been nice. It’s been a good trip. I’m not sure how to elaborate on it. It seemed like they really truly were rooting for us,” Tagg said about that 2003 Triple Crown run. “I had so many people call and tell me they were falling off their couch, screaming and hollering and falling off the balcony. Everybody sounded so sincere about it. It wasn’t just like, ‘Uh, great, yeah.’ It was really, really sincere. Other people who have been trying just as hard, working just as hard seemed like they were really happy for us. It’s been a nice experience. I didn’t know anybody liked me. I didn’t. Maybe they don’t, I don’t know, but it’s been a nice experience.”

And then one about the other guys, the trainers who tread a different path, cut a different swath to the top.

“I admire Frankel, Baffert and Lukas. They’re super for the game, super at what

they do and they get the job done, but I was never able to attract owners like they do,” Tagg said. “I have lovely people that I train for but I never had owners that put the money in like they do. They get 20 Funny Cides a year to fool with. They don’t have to lay awake worrying if he’s going to have an ankle in the morning. They probably do but they don’t have to quite as much because they have more opportunity. So when you get something like this, it’s a big thrill. What you hope for. We just don’t have quite as much cream to raise to the top.”

As my dad said, Tagg could be fiery. He’s been fiery with us a few times, once when he thought we wrote if Funny Cide ran in the Travers, they’d sell more Funny Cide beer.

“I don’t train horses to sell beer,” he snapped as he rode past on his pony.

What? What? I scurried to the paper rack and re-read my column in that day’s *Saratoga Special*, it didn’t say that he trains horses to sell beer.

“Did you read it? Did you read it?” I snapped as he rode back to his barn.

I guess we can be fiery, too. He rode past a set later and nodded, that was it. So, I asked him about it, about his irascibility, about his gruffness. Like always, Tagg didn’t dance.

“I’m easy to get along with. I get along with Robin all right. I like things done right and I’m kinda fussy about that. I guess I’m a bit of a perfectionist. I’m not as hard to get along with as I was 10, 20 years ago. I was pretty hard to get along with then,” Tagg said. “I guess some people think I’m still hard to get along with. I’ve had people quit me, grooms, hotwalkers, riders. I’ve had everybody quit me and say, ‘You’re just impossible to get along with. There’s better jobs out there than this ----- place.’ They’d walk out and three or four weeks later they come back and ask for a job. I’d say, ‘What the hell do you want a job for?’ They’d say, ‘I don’t like the way he does things. You do things right.’ That always made me feel good, so I kept being a bastard. I just like things done the way I want them done.”

Perhaps a bastard on the outside and perhaps that’s by design, his shell, his defense. Then bring an old friend past his Saratoga barn, just stop by to see the one who got out, the one who made it out of Maryland, the one who made it to the show. Some years, it’s Dad. We stop by the Morning Line Kitchen, they talk about old times, although I’ve never heard either one mention Nalanx and Rolling Rock. One year, it was Joe Aitcheson Jr. The Hall of

Fame jockey asked if we could stop by Barclay Tagg's barn, we drove the golf cart to the apron of Tagg's barn and lingered, waiting to catch Tagg's eye.

"I doubt he'll remember me," Aitcheson said, as we waited.

Tagg jumped off his pony and shook Joe's hand and smiled like they were in the jocks' room after the 1970 Colonial Cup, Joe winning the first \$100,000 jump race in history aboard Top Bid and Tagg, dressed by then, after finishing second on Shod Over (to Aitcheson on future Hall of Famer Tuscalee) and fifth on Summer Crop on the undercard. Aitcheson won 26 races that year, Tagg won seven. A year later, he was done. Like two old friends at the end of the bar, the stories flowed.

There's that one about Kathy Kusner flying a plane to a race meet in the hills. The three-seat puddle jumper is barely rising above the puddles. It's lurching and diving, Kusner's turning nobbs, fiddling controls. The first woman to ride in the Maryland Hunt Cup is as brave as they get and she's getting rattled. Tagg is clutching the arm rests from the co-pilot seat, legs locked against the floorboards, good thing he had been reducing, there's nothing in his stomach. Aitcheson, who's already ridden more jump winners than anyone in history, is wedged between two tack bags in the backseat. Quiet on a good day, Aitcheson hasn't said a word, he's ridden thousands of jumpers and now he's going to die in a small airplane. He reaches between the seat and taps Kusner on the elbow, hands her Tagg's riding helmet.

"Sorry, Barclay, I don't have one for you."

Tagg turns and there's Aitcheson, his helmet buckled like he's riding out of the paddock on Tuscalee.

They survived the plane ride and laughed about it years later while enjoying a morning at Saratoga.

Tagg hopped back on his pony and we drove off.

"Barclay was a good rider," Aitcheson said. "A good rider."

I asked Aitcheson why he didn't make it bigger in the sport.

"He's his own man," Aitcheson said.

Tagg straight-shot about Nalanx back in 1971, about Funny Cide in 2003, Tiz the Law in 2020 and every horse in between. He didn't know any other way, still doesn't. It's lost him jobs along the way, but it definitely got him one.



DOUGLAS LEES



DOUBLE J



TOD MARKS

Barclay Tagg through the years: a hurdle win on Gaddo at Fair Hill in 1968; early stable star Miss Josh storming home in the 1991 Gallorette; aboard the stable pony at Saratoga.



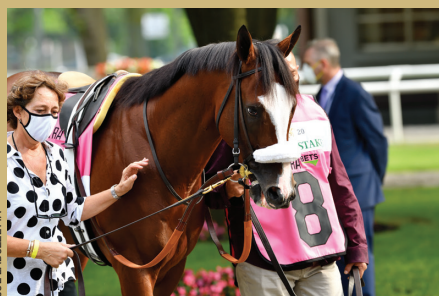
Tiz the Law lands Belmont, eyes next step on 2020 path

By Sean Clancy

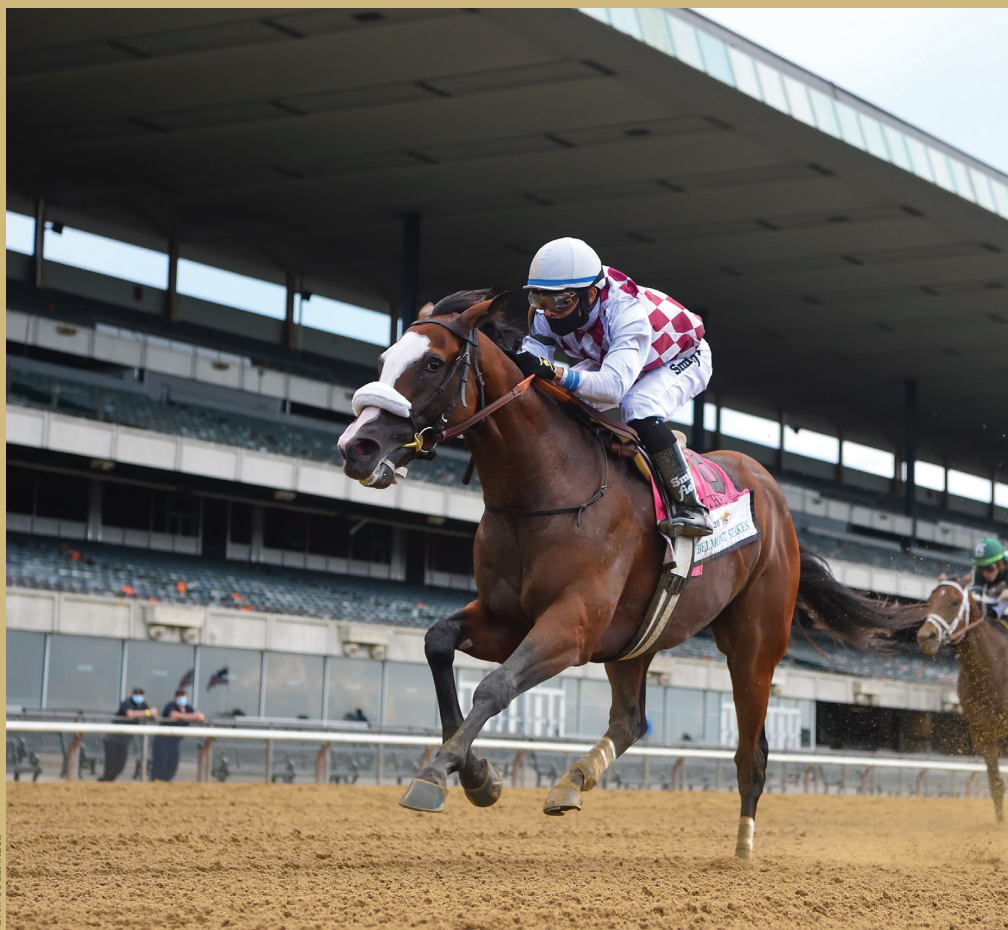
Barclay Tagg had never sounded more confident. It was the night before the rescheduled Belmont Stakes June 20 and the trainer, always realistic and sometimes pessimistic, talked about Tiz the Law, the once-beaten favorite for the first leg of the Triple Crown.

"It is what is, the only thing I don't like about it is they're not going to give it full credit, they'll have an asterisk with it or something like that," Tagg said of the shortened Belmont Stakes (and perhaps the Triple Crown). "I would have loved for it to stay at a mile-and-a-half or even a mile-and-a-quarter, just trained up to it. It would have still been a classic distance, but that's where we are."

The next day, they were exactly where they wanted, in the winner's circle after 9



JOE LABOZZETTA



ADAM COGLIANESE

Bonner Young and her brother, George Rowand, were looking for a trainer for a 2-year-old purchased by their friend Tyson Gilpin. Sandra Forbush had a filly, Nothing Sweeter, with Tagg at the time and liked what he was doing. She suggested the scuffling trainer who had trained 24 winners in 1984 and was on his way to training 40 in 1985, by far his best year in a hardscrabble career.

Spruced Up Gal arrived at Tagg's barn and later was set to breeze with two other fillies. Young and Rowand, neophytes at best, met the trainer and the filly at the barn, then drove to the front side of Laurel Park to watch her breeze for the first time.

"We were so excited," Young said.

Spruced Up Gal, a daughter of Spruce Needles purchased for \$14,000 from the Illinois May 2-year-old Sale, finished second of three.

"Oh, man, that's pretty good," Young said to Rowand.

Rowand nodded, encouraged.

They drove back to the barn to get their trainer's take.

"Well, what did you think, Mr. Tagg?"

"Well, the horse who beat you will never win a race and the one you beat can't outrun a cow."

Young was taken aback.

"Those were his exact words," she said in July.

On the drive home, she thought about it some more.

"This is neat, this man told me the truth. This man is honest."

Spruced Up Gal won two claimers at Pimlico and wound up at Charles Town. Young? She wound up with Tagg as her trainer, her friend.

"She was a cheap claimer," Young said. "But she got us to Barclay."

For the next 35 years. And still going strong.

"He could have told us whatever and bled us dry, if he was that kind of trainer. But he wasn't, he told the truth. I wouldn't be in the business without Barclay," Young said. "He's more like a brother now than a trainer. He's part of the family. My granddaughter calls him Uncle Barc."

furlongs of the Grade 1 Belmont Stakes. Asterisk be damned.

Tiz the Law used his natural cruising speed to establish an outside stalking spot, strolled to the lead when jockey Manny



JOE LABOZZETTA



Franco asked and cruised home by 3 ¾ lengths over Dr Post and Max Player. It was that simple.

“He just puts his little head down and rolls into it. He just kind of chugs along, you think he’s going to get beat and he just chugs away from them. He doesn’t look like he really starts reaching out and running, he just keeps going and runs away from them,” Tagg said. “It looked to me like everything just worked like clockwork. That’s the way the horse likes to run, that’s the position he likes to be in. Manny knows the horse very well, we discussed it very quickly before I put him up on the horse, I felt very confident that Manny would ride him that way.”

Owned by Sackatoga Stable, Tiz the Law finished in 1:46.53. Bred by Twin Creeks Farm and sold by Sequel New York, Tiz the Law cost \$110,000 at the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred yearling sale at Saratoga in 2018. Tagg and partner/assistant Robin Smullen picked out the white-faced colt and convinced Sackatoga’s Jack Knowlton to stretch.

“Barclay, Robin and I go through the catalog for the New York-bred sale, that’s our go-to sale given the budget we typically work with, 110 was probably the last bid. I think we had him pegged at 100, fortunately we went that extra 10 thousand,” Knowlton said. “We usually have a couple of tables of partners for dinner at the sale, they’re enthusiastic and we’ll push the envelope a little more, which is a good thing.”

Tiz the Law won his debut at Saratoga last summer, missed the Hopeful with a sore shin and won his second start, the Grade 1 Champagne at Belmont Park. Skipping the Breeders’ Cup, Tiz the Law

traveled for the Grade 2 Kentucky Jockey Club at Churchill Downs where nothing went right, he wound up third, an undefeated season and a championship up in smoke. Freshened, he returned with facile wins in the Grade 3 Holy Bull and Grade 1 Florida Derby, which should have primed him for the Kentucky Derby. The coronavirus pandemic blew that up, put everything on hold and Tagg stayed the course, breezing him once a week while he waited for a plan. Eventually, tracks announced plans. In order of announcement, the Kentucky Derby in September, the Preakness in October, a shortened Belmont Stakes in June, the Travers in early August . . . that sounds about right.

Tagg simply trained his horse.

“I couldn’t see any sense in changing. I could have turned him out for two weeks, brought him back in and started over again but I thought, ‘Why do it? You don’t know when they’re going to open up.’ And we really didn’t. We had no idea, not with enough time to get a horse ready,” Tagg said. “We had to just keep on the plan. I didn’t do anything really strenuous with him, I didn’t hook him up with Citation and try and outrun him down the stretch to get him fit. I thought we’d just use common sense and brought him along the right way and it worked out.”

Next stop, the Travers at Saratoga Aug. 8.

“I’d like to get the Travers, too, I’ve never won the Travers, it’s a classic,” Tagg said. “The old classic New York races were the ones that determined the champions every year.”

A Belmont and Travers? No asterisk there.

— Sean Clancy

And as with family, there have been moments when the law needed to be laid. As Miss Josh, a homebred daughter of Nasty and Bold was winning 14 races, including the Grade 1 Gamely and four other graded stakes for Young and Rowand, Tagg allowed past wrongs to interfere with a present right.

“I know you’re going to take her away from me anyway...” Tagg said as they mapped out missions to Hollywood Park, Arlington Park and Louisiana Downs.

Was it the sting of losing Roo Art? Purchased by Tagg for \$15,500 at Timonium, the son of Buckaroo won his first four for Tagg and wound up with D. Wayne Lukas. Tagg scoffs at the slight, but it sure still hurts.

“I know you’re going to take her away from me anyway...”

He said it more than once. And once too many.

“Look, the day you’re not training for me, you’re dead or I’m dead,” Young said. “So don’t ever mention it to me again.”

He hasn’t.

“I didn’t want just a trainer, I wanted a horseman,” Young said. “He’s a horseman. He’s not just a trainer. He’s got instincts.”

Before Funny Cide, Tagg had won two Grade 1 stakes. Miss Josh in the 1991 Gamely and Royal Mountain Inn in the 1994 Man o’ War. Both hail from Highland Mills, a filly trained by Edward Daniels Jr., one of three trainers ever employed by Young (Charlie Hadry had one horse for

her). Tagg engineered national raids with Miss Josh and Royal Mountain Inn from his Maryland base, stamping himself as a turf trainer who could pick spots better than John Wayne in a saloon. He moved to New York for good in 2001.

“I’m just happy he has Tiz the Law,” Young said. “He picked the horse out, he believes in him, he loves him,” Young said. “It’s nice to see this success at this point of his career.”

As Gelo Hall said in the dying light of the 2003 Preakness.

“You know time and chance happens to us all.”

For Tagg, a horse men’s horse man, it happened in 2003 and again in 2020. 🌟

Redefining Normal

After long Covid-19 break, horsemen make most of chances in Maryland

BY SARA GORDON. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE

As if they were part grounds crew getting an aircraft ready for an unknown destination, Maryland-based trainers spent the dark days without racing from mid-March through the end of May preparing for an uncertain future. It wasn't until the Maryland Racing Commission unanimously approved the resumption of live racing at Laurel Park Saturday, May 30 that all of the entities invested in Maryland's Thoroughbred racing industry breathed a collective sigh of relief.

For trainer Brittany Russell, the light at the end of the tunnel ignited with multiple stakes winner Hello Beautiful's allowance win June 20 following an unfortunate start on the turf June 1, where she finished seventh. It was the 3-year-old filly's first start since winning the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes in December, following her score in the Maryland Million Lassie last October.

"Naturally, our goal was to see the same filly we had in December, in her comeback race, but we didn't have that," said Russell. "We went back to the drawing board and decided we just needed to toss that race. We had to get her back on the dirt."

And once they did, Hello Beautiful gave Russell and her husband Sheldon, the filly's jockey, all the reassurance they needed. Leading from gate-to-wire across the sealed, sloppy track in the 6-furlong sprint, she won by 8¼ lengths in 1:09.88.

Bred by Hillwood Stables, the daughter from the first crop of Golden Lad improved to 4-2-1 from eight career starts and boosted her earnings to \$199,360 for Madaket Stables, Albert Frassetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stable and Magic City Stables.

Russell is aiming the Maryland-bred star toward a graded stakes debut, with the

Grade 1 Test at Saratoga in early August the primary target.

"She'll probably only work like three times and I'll space them out. She won't work every week, she doesn't need all that," Russell said. "She's really matured and I think that's another important thing. Mentally, you know, they have to come around."

In the meantime, Russell has another exciting up-and-comer in Russelloing-things, a 3-year-old son of Golden Lad who broke his maiden in his debut June 8 in a waiver claimer.

"I had nothing to do with naming him and nothing to do with picking him out, but was just sort of the fortunate one that got sent the horse," said Russell.

Though his name is ironic, his talent is not. Nearly 10 lengths off the early pace, he rallied past rivals, kicked clear late and won in hand, completing 6 furlongs in 1:10.91 while defeating 12 others. Owners Michael Dubb, David Simon and Bethlehem Stables paid \$175,000 for him at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale of 2-year-olds.

"He ran that first time like he wanted more ground, so that's nice," Russell said. "He's definitely shown he has ability and that he wants to be a racehorse. The next step-up spot would be the one-turn mile."

■ While trainer Lacey Gaudet didn't intend to acquire an entire family of racehorses, in her words, "sometimes it just happens that way." When asked about her Virginia-bred Ready and Rich, a 4-year-old gelding who won June 5, Gaudet shared that she actually had all of the foals of racing age out of his dam Ready Reply in her barn, including 3-year-old filly Princess Adira (by Cairo Prince) and 2-year-old filly Call the Po Po (by Mineshaft).

Though Princess Adira arrived first, Gaudet had her eye on Ready and Rich since 2018 as he raced in Kentucky for trainer Ignacio Correas IV. After Correas lost him for a \$30,000 tag at Churchill Downs Dec. 1, 2019, the gelding made his way to the Mid-Atlantic. Gaudet claimed him Jan. 1 at Laurel Park for \$25,000 for Bush Racing Stable.

Ready and Rich didn't run for his new connections for five months after dealing with a canceled race, a long-lasting hoof abscess and Covid-19. He was ready to go when sent out for a 5½-furlong starter allowance June 5, rallying from 8 lengths behind to win going away by 1¼ lengths and paying \$35.80 as the longest shot in the field of seven.

"That's how he trains in the morning, the way he ran that day, and I kind of love identifying come-from-behind sprinters,"



JIM MCCUE

FUELED BY 

Hello Beautiful, trainer Brittany Russell, assistant Luis Barajas and Sheldon Russell catch their breath after winning an allowance race June 20.

Gaudet said. "I think that's probably what he's going to be."

Back in action June 23, the son of Super Saver finished eighth after stumbling at the start but sported a record of 3-7-3 and earnings of \$135,627 from 23 lifetime starts.

Ready and Rich's win was the first for Gaudet since the return, and she credited it to being able to prioritize the care of her horses.

"Our whole operation revolves around keeping them happy, regardless of whether there's a race to point to or not, so the ones that were [content] being turned out and really enjoying it and maybe putting on weight and their coat looked good, we kicked on and let them do that. And [with] the other ones that missed their job, we went back [to training] with them a little earlier."

FUELED BY 

■ If Dark Hollow Farm's homebred Toy was aware of the three-month gap between breaking his maiden in February to his next start May 31, he didn't show it.

The Mike Trombetta trainee ousted 10 others including runner-up stablemate Plot the Dots in a \$62,874 allowance going a mile on the dirt.

"The best thing we've gotten out of that race for him is that he was prepared well enough off of the break to be fit enough to win and he overcame a troubled trip to do it," said Trombetta.

The gelded son of Tapizar made three starts as a 2-year-old, never finishing worse than fourth, and managed two seconds to kick off 2020. With his allowance score he's won two of seven starts with two seconds, a third and \$89,790.

"He's one of those horses that as he got more races under his belt and more ground under him he really started doing much better, especially when he was in races that were at a mile or over," said Trombetta.

Toy and Albert Frassetto's Maryland Mo, a 3-year-old gelded son of Uncle Mo trained by Graham Motion who broke his maiden June 1 on the turf, are half-siblings to fellow Maryland-breds who sold for six figures at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale in late June.

Toy's dam Plum, a stakes-winning mare also bred by Dark Hollow Farm (along with her dam Bamba), was represented by an Upstart filly who sold for \$400,000 to Sallusto/Albina from the consignment of Cary Frommer. Out of the graded stakes-placed Who's Cozy, Maryland Mo's half-sister by Twirling Candy was purchased for \$175,000 by Cash is King from the consignment of Julie Davies. Who's Cozy, bred by Richard Golden and Debra Sones,

has produced nine foals for Golden's Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds, including stakes winner Who's in Town.

■ Murmur Farm was well-represented by Audrey Murray's homebred Moon Watcher, as the 3-year-old son of Petionville broke his maiden in his first start June 8. The pause on live racing did nothing to dampen the colt's strong debut as he outran 11 others in a 5½-furlong waiver maiden claimer while in for a \$14,000 tag.

"Fortunately some of the horses I brought in came right as [racing] shut down, so they were just getting in shape anyway," said trainer Linda Albert, who mentioned Moon Watcher was one. "They were going on with their program like always."

The gelding had been turned out last year in hopes of resolving some immaturity and soundness issues. Once back into the barn in March, Moon Watcher seemed like a different horse to his trainer.

"I was so impressed that he had grown a fair amount. He's a little horse anyway, but it felt like he'd grown a whole hand while he was out," she said. "He's a sweet little horse. He trains with enthusiasm and doesn't give anyone a hard time about anything."

Moon Watcher followed the win with a fifth in a starter/optional claimer July 3.

"He probably just needs a little easier spot, that was a tough race," said Albert. "Like I said, he's not superman."

Moon Watcher is connected to Murray's Murmur Farm on all fronts, as his sire has stood there since 2014 and his dam, Forest Nightlife, was also bred and owned by Murray.

■ Maryland-bred Golden Can, bred, owned and trained by Hassan Elamri, sprung a 45-1 upset as she broke her maiden in a 5½-furlong maiden special weight on the turf May 31. Winning by a neck in her second career start, the 3-year-old filly paid \$92.40. The daughter of Golden Lad and Sydney Speaks, also bred, owned and trained by Elamri, had earned \$32,640 through July 9.

■ Hickory Plains' homebred Stand My Ground broke his maiden May 30 in a waiver maiden at 1⅙ miles on the turf. The 4-year-old gelded son of Temple City out of the stakes-placed Louis Quatorze mare No Means No represents the fifth generation of a line bred by Randy Cohen and his family, which began when he purchased Closing Charger, the Maryland-bred gelding's great, great, great granddam, in 1985.

■ With only a few weeks under her belt as the new racing secretary of Laurel and Pimlico Race Course, Maryland Jockey Club veteran Jillian Tullock would never



Laurel's new racing secretary Jillian Tullock.

have expected to deal with a halt to racing in Maryland. "It was different. After being here for 20-some odd years, I wasn't expecting that one," she said.

Though the quietness may have been beneficial when it came to the challenge of writing a condition book without race dates, she won't miss it.

"We did a very good job with our protocols," she said. "It was exciting to get back to racing."

While the future remains uncertain, Tullock is hopeful for a return to some sort of normalcy. "It would be nice to have more opportunities to run as we go further into the year and to get the people back here to see it."

NOTES: Two-time winners of the first six weeks of the meet included Maryland-breds Outofthepark (June 5 and 27) and Harpers First Ride (June 6 and July 3) . . . Michael Scheffres' Tambora posted the biggest upset of the meet when he beat Hammers Vision in a \$5,000 waiver claimer June 19, at 63-1. The Carlos Mancilla trainee paid \$129.40 to win . . . When racing resumed, the track began with three days of live racing during the first two weeks, followed by two days per week for the remainder of the meet. Despite racing without fans, the total export handle from 14 days of racing, between Saturday, May 30 through Saturday, July 5, was \$51,885,104. This was a nearly 10-percent increase from the same time frame last year, which included five more days of live racing. Even with an additional \$2,517,046 of in-state handle last year during that period, it is still less than what the track has done this year. As of June 20, almost 80 percent of the Maryland Jockey Club's off-track betting locations had reopened, with \$400,000 of in-state handle on Laurel.



Winning Big

Maryland-bred Project Whiskey delivers for Zacney, Reid in Grade 3

BY JOE CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOOFPRIINTS, INC.

Thoroughbred owners will tell you that just being in the game is a gamble, a big one. You invest money to purchase or breed a racehorse, pay every day to have a horse fed, trained, ridden and cared for in hopes that it all might pay off at some point.

And that, coupled with the fear of being a jinx, is why owners frequently say they don't bet on their horses. But never say never.

Chuck Zacney got his bet in early on Project Whiskey before the Delaware

Oaks-G3 at Delaware Park July 4, and had no problem as her odds climbed to just shy of 39-1. He had less problems watching her storm home to pull a half-length upset in the \$300,000 stakes for 3-year-old fillies. Zacney's Cash is King and LC Racing partnership earned \$155,000 for the win, and the owner's account-wagering balance got a nice boost from the \$2 win payoff of \$79.60.

"That was a very pleasant surprise," he said a few days later. "I was home, trying to be careful and do the right thing [during

the pandemic] and was betting a couple races that day. I loved Irad Ortiz in a race before that at Belmont and he won at 4-1. I was flush so I bet a little on Project Whiskey too."

Of course, he'd already gambled on the Maryland-bred—a \$35,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale in 2018. Sent to trainer Butch Reid, the daughter of Tapizar and the Malibu Moon mare Over the Moon won twice in her 2-year-old season—including a \$75,000 stakes—but missed the first part of 2020 when racing was halted at Parx Racing. Project Whiskey had to go to Churchill Downs to get her season started and she finished last of six, beaten 10¾ lengths, in an allowance race won by the Grade 1-placed (and now Grade 3 winner) Frank's Rockette May 25.

From there to the Delaware Oaks was a leap, but there were few other options.

"Butch was getting calls from the racing secretary at Delaware that the Oaks was coming up light—they had three, four, five horses," said Zacney. "We wanted two turns, that was the most important thing



Project Whiskey (far right) digs in to turn aside all challengers in the Grade 3 Delaware Oaks July 4.



The Opening Day feature—the Obeah Stakes—was the first stakes win for Lucky Move, who pulled the upset over Vault.

for her. Races going two turns with her conditions really aren't going at Parx right now. She was sharp, on the improve, [jockey] Frankie Pennington worked her a couple times and liked her. We were feeling a little confident—a little."

The Oaks ended up with eight runners led by Grade 3 winner Comical from Steve Asmussen's barn and Oaklawn Park stakes winner Piece of My Heart. With Pennington aboard, Project Whiskey shadowed Piece of My Heart and Long Point Beach early, took the lead in the stretch and fought off Dream Marie to win by a half-length. The dark bay filly won for the third time and lifted her career earnings to \$262,580.

"I was not expecting that effort," said Zacney. "I was expecting a solid effort, but not that. I was pleasantly surprised. We couldn't be happier. She certainly looks the part."

Project Whiskey has always looked the part. Bred by Dark Hollow Farm, she won her class at the 2018 Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show judged by trainer Rick Violette. Dark Hollow raced granddam Clever Phrase and bred and raced dam Over the Moon.

AROUND THE TRACK


The meet started June 17, late but very much welcome for horsemen, management and the limited number of fans allowed on site. Ten Strike Racing's Lucky Move upset the Obeah Stakes at nearly 43-1 on Opening Day for trainer Juan Guerrero. The New York-bred was making her first start since February. On a day where his former trainee Vault finished second in the Obeah, Pennsylvania-based trainer Bernie Houghton won the meet opener with Bolt Brotherhood as Delaware handled \$2.8 million on its first day.

Jamie Ness was by far the busiest trainer in the early going at Delaware with 43 starts through July 6. His six wins led the table. Kieron Magee, who gave his horses a lengthy break on the farm during the early days of the pandemic shutdown, had won three of 11 at Delaware.

Fair Hill-based Fenneka Bentley picked up a win by disqualification with Busster Von Trappe in a 1-mile turf maiden special weight June 22. Bred by owner Monica Bauman in Kentucky, the winner hadn't started since October at Parx Racing and was moved up from second after getting bumped by Enjoy the Music.

Owner/trainer/breeder Tim Ritchey won a \$42,000 allowance with Maryland-bred Dancer's Melody June 27, part of a five-win day for jockey Carol Cedeno. Dancer's Melody, a 3-year-old daughter

of Alternation, is out of Ritchey's homebred four-time stakes winner Urban Dancer (by Citidancer).

In his first start at Delaware Park, Someday Jones won a tough \$47,000 allowance July 6 for trainer John Servis. The 7-year-old Pennsylvania-bred ousted Compound It by a half-length in a field that included Grumps Little Tots, Sound Off, Forevamo and Clubman. Pat Chapman bred the winner, a son of Smarty Jones owned by Main Line Racing Stable and Alexandria Stable. A stakes winner at Penn National, Parx Racing and Laurel Park, Someday Jones won for the 11th time while pushing his career earnings to \$629,330. 

Stakes results for Delaware Park

6/17 Obeah (\$100K). 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **LUCKY MOVE** (b.m., 6, Lookin At Lucky—Quiet Mover, by Quiet American). B-Maltese Cross Stables and Stonegate Stables (N.Y.). O-Ten Strike Racing. T-Juan Carlos Guerrero. J-Roberto J. Rosado. Time: 1:42.28. Margin: 1 $\frac{1}{4}$. 2nd: **Vault**. 3rd: **Lady Apple**.

7/4 Delaware Oaks-G3 (\$300K). 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi. 3YO F.

Winner: **PROJECT WHISKEY** (dk.b./br.f., Tapizar—Over the Moon, by Malibu Moon). B-Dark Hollow Farm (Md.). O-Cash is King and LC Racing. T-Robert E. Reid Jr. J-Frankie Pennington. Time: 1:44.04. Margin: $\frac{1}{2}$. 2nd: **Dream Marie**. 3rd: **Princess Cadey**.

7/4 Kent-G3 (\$125K). 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **GUFO** (ch.c., Declaration of War—Floy, by Petionville). B-John Little and Stephen Cainelli (Ky.). O-Otter Bend Stables. T-Christophe Clement. J-Trevor McCarthy. Time: 1:46.94. Margin: $\frac{1}{2}$. 2nd: **Pixelate**. 3rd: **Vanzzy**.

7/4 Christiana (\$50K). 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ mi. Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **TRICKLE IN** (b.f., Temple City—Knox County Zip, by City Zip). B-Fred W. Hertrich III (Ky.). O-CJ Thoroughbreds. T-Michael Stidham. J-Trevor McCarthy. Time: 1:41.26. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Duchess of Sussex**. 3rd: **Embossed**.

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A Saving Leap

Gutted by pandemic, jump racing returns with two Virginia cards in June

BY SEAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

Two meets. Twenty-one races. That was the spring steeplechase season. In any other year, that would be a farce. In 2020, it was a force. The coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc on sport—life—in 2020. For steeplechasing, a robust spring season was demolished, ultimately becoming a two race-meet experiment/salvation in early summer. The Middleburg Spring Races and the Virginia Gold Cup managed to keep the lights on, running marathon cards of 11

and 10 races with massive fields but without spectators, without owners. It had never been done. And hopefully, will never be done again. Come on, vaccine.

For National Steeplechase President Al Griffin, it was uncharted waters.

“We had to reinvent the whole scenario and had no clue how it was going to work out, we worked hard with the state from a health and procedural standpoint. To run that number of horses in that short a period

of time, it was rolling the dice. Everything fell into place. Everybody got it. Everybody understood. Everybody came together. That was a big deal,” Griffin said. “People who had pledged money for a gala celebration for Middleburg’s 100th anniversary, they stayed in the game and left their money on the table to be used at Middleburg and for the whole steeplechase industry. And the Virginia Equine Alliance, they stepped up. That was gigantic.”

The summer will be buoyed by another strong schedule at Colonial Downs and Saratoga. As for the fall, anything and everything is on the table for a sport that derives most of its income from spectators driving through stone pillars and walking through a gap in the snow fence to watch an old-fashioned sporting event.

“We have gone to all the race meets in the fall and asked what possibilities exist and tried to get them to think about running in different scenarios and can they? Go back and do your due diligence, can you run with a restricted scenario, social distancing, no



TOD MARKS

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Moscato passes Iranistan at the last fence of the Temple Gwathmey at Middleburg, a race the gray English-bred won in 2019 as well.

tents, every other parking space? Look at that business plan and see how it works for you. Each race meet is different, they're going to have different numbers, different potential," Griffin said. "When I talked to the health department, they said don't even bother asking until August 1 and even then, you might not get a good answer. What applies to a race meet in September may be completely different than one scheduled for October. I've asked race meets to have contingency plans in place and we'll have a plan depending on what we're faced with from a restriction standpoint."

Further complicating matters, the NSA schedule spans 10 states—each with different regulations and protocols.

Oh, the uncertainty of 2020.

As for the racing at Middleburg and Virginia Gold Cup, there were certainties as perennial champion trainer Jack Fisher swept three of the four stakes to lead all trainers. First-call jockey Michael Mitchell won five races to lead top the jockey standings. Fisher's main owner, Bruton Street-US won both hurdle stakes to lead all owners.

At Middleburg, Moscato (GB) defended his crown in the Temple Gwathmey Stakes for Bruton Street, Fisher and Mitchell. The 9-year-old son of Hernando (Fr) began last season in the same fashion, returning from a 19-month layoff to hand Belisarius (Ire) a 3½-length defeat in the sport's first hurdle stakes of the season. This year, the British-bred gray brushed off an eight-month layoff to dispatch Belisarius by 11 lengths.

"It was pretty easy. I was just happy the way he was training at home he showed it on the track. I felt like he had grown in confidence and was a lot stronger and happier this year," Mitchell said. "Coming off such a long layoff last year, winning at Middleburg and having a good rest of the year but not winning, I felt like he still had to prove himself at Middleburg this year. I made sure he put them away pretty convincingly."

Moscato went winless in three starts after the Gwathmey last year. He closed to be third after a rough trip in the Iroquois, posted a non-threatening eighth in the Lonesome Glory and rallied late to be third in the Grand National. Far back early in those races, Mitchell made sure Moscato was a bit closer in the 2½-mile hurdle stakes this time.

"I just kept him honest really, there's a reason he's got the blinkers, he can switch off a little bit and do as much as he wants to do. I would say he's better this year. He's



Andi'amu powers away with the open timber feature at Middleburg, which was run for the 100th time (about two months late) at Glenwood Park in Virginia.

developed, gotten stronger, his confidence, his jumping was good," Mitchell said. "He's got so much stamina, he's behaving better, sometimes he can have his own way of doing things down at the start, he feels like he's maturing. There's a good horse underneath there and hopefully we can prove that in the upcoming season."

As for Mitchell, he felt strong after riding 10 consecutive jump races (24½ miles), his first rides since December, on the condensed and crowded card.

"I felt really good, actually. I drank a bottle of water after every race, I went through 10 bottles of water by the end of the day. Luckily there weren't any light rides, I still came out of the day, three pounds lighter," last year's champion jockey said. "I was happy after going six months without riding to having a 10-race card. My legs felt pretty solid, the horses finished off well and I was able to push them out. On the whole, they were good first out runs for the season, the majority of my horses would have improved off that run and I look forward to riding them again."

■ Tom Garner laughed when asked about riding Andi'amu (Fr) in the timber feature at Middleburg.

"I was just a passenger," Garner said. "I was there to just point and steer and he does the rest."

The 10-year-old loped on an uncontested lead to win his sixth timber race in seven

starts for Ballybristol Farm and trainer Leslie Young.

"He jumped off and went a furlong, he settled in my hands and I actually thought he was a bit quiet, he was just lobbing away in his own speed. I thought he was a bit quick and I didn't think he was going to produce," Garner said. "I sort of half gave him a squeeze going past the stands and down the hill, he went from second gear with his revs low to his revs high, he traveled all the way to the second to last and I pushed a button and he went. It was that easy. I thought I was lobbing away in second gear but watching the replay it looks like he's going a nice speed. It's impressive the way he can jump and travel."

Garner has traveled the world riding races. Timber racing in America has a spot on his playlist.

"I've ridden the Pardubice, Merano in Italy and even lake races in Germany, but there's nothing like timber racing, there's nothing like it in the world," Garner said. "It's very different the way a horse respects the fences and shortens into them. I like it. Hopefully it suits my style of riding because I like to sit still at my fences. Of course, Andi makes it easy."

■ Gerard Galligan posted a natural hat trick winning the sixth, seventh and eighth races at Middleburg.

Hot Springs provided the first, breaking his maiden in his hurdle debut for Carrington Holdings and trainer Arch Kingsley. A four-



Gerard Galligan won three at Middleburg.

time winner, including the Grade 3 Commonwealth at Churchill Downs in 2018, the son of Uncle Mo cost \$60,000 at the 2019 Keeneland November sale.

"Arch said he had a nice bunch of maidens so I jumped on a flight right after Warrenton Point-to-Point and lived with his family for about a month," Galligan said. "I schooled all the maidens and got to know them, he's got a lovely bunch of horses so I was excited to ride him Saturday."

Unfortunately, Hot Springs was put down a few weeks later when coming down with wobblers syndrome.

"He was irreplaceable," Kingsley said. "I'm Shakespearean about it, better to have loved and lost..."

Galligan made it two when Zoom Zoom Zoe (Ire) bided her time off a demanding pace in the filly and mare maiden before rolling to a 5¼-length score over longtime pacesetter Lear Avia and High Sierra. Jonathan Sheppard trained the 4-year-old filly for Buttonwood Farm.

"She's very straightforward, they said she was a little green which she was, she'll come on a bunch for that," Galligan said. "It did help there was a lot of pace and I had something to aim at, she's definitely one for the future, she's got a lot of stamina and the speed as well."

Galligan completed his triple and Sheppard's triple when Hyperlapse (Ire) took the

first division of the maiden hurdle for West Grove Venture.

■ Richard Valentine lives with it. Every horse will be compared to Demonstrative, a future champion picked out a Tattersalls Horses in Training Sale for just £25,000.

"If he was a hand higher..." Valentine answered after winning the maiden with Critical Data (Ire), purchased from Tattersalls in 2018. This one cost a little bit more, fetching £115,000.

"He's a neat little size and a beautiful mover," Valentine said.

Owned by Runnymore Racing, the 4-year-old toyed with a quality group of maidens, drawing off to win by 2¼ lengths for jockey Kieran Norris.

"He had been training great, his weight looked good, he schooled great," Valentine said. "I was very confident, but I didn't think he would be that aggressive, that's not the way he is, he wasn't that aggressive on the flat. I've never seen that side of him, he's always been an incredibly kind horse, it was nice to see him pick up after doing all that."

GOLD CUP ENCORE

Two weeks after Middleburg, the Virginia Gold Cup emptied the cupboard and turned on the stove for 10 races at Great Meadow in The Plains, Va.

When you jump 23 fences and go 4 miles in the featured Virginia Gold Cup, the denouement usually comes late, somewhere during the last mile, usually at the water jump as the field takes the inside loop. This year, sadly, the denouement came early and without pomp as the field split in two after just five fences.

Pacesetter Storm Team and stalker Andi'amu went right for the outside loop. Codrington College (Ire), Doc Cebu, Lemony Bay (GB) and Super Saturday went left for the inside loop. The latter were correct and the race was over.

"Am I right? Am I wrong?"

That's all Mitchell had in his mind as the field split.

"For a fraction of a second, I doubted myself," Mitchell said. "Like being in a classroom and somebody telling you to sit down while everybody stands up. You almost have that feeling of standing up with them."

With help from Darren Nagle on leader Codrington College, Mitchell sat down and won the Virginia Gold Cup.

"I was in a lovely position, I had Storm Team and Andi'amu in my sight and

Codrington College to my left. Darren was on my inside going left so that reassured me," Mitchell said. "What affirmed it for me was in the meeting, they made a point of saying it was a long run back to the first fence, that went through my head when we turned the corner."

The 4-mile \$40,000 timber stakes, pitting the two best timber horses in the country, was over. Left with three overmatched rivals, Doc Cebu jumped and galloped behind Codrington College until Mitchell relented and let him go. That moment came as the game Codrington College led to the last. Doc Cebu rolled past the frontrunner, soared over the last and sauntered to a 12-length score. Codrington College held second over the only other finisher Super Saturday. Owned by Charlie Fenwick, Mike Hankin and Charlie Noell and trained by Jack Fisher, the 10-year-old son of Hard Spun notched his ninth score over timber and first since the International Gold Cup in 2018.

"It was difficult then not to take up the lead, I was aware there was still a long way to go and I didn't want to be up there to get shot at, it was just trying to keep the horse relaxed," Mitchell said. "He was outjumping him at every fence, luckily every time I brought him back, Darren would kick up and take the lead again, it was helping me out. Doc Cebu jumped beautifully, quite relaxed. It was just a matter of pushing the go button, we met the last on a lovely stride, hands and heels to the line."

Fisher's first-call jockey, Mitchell had watched Doc Cebu win seven times with British-based amateur, Hadden Frost. The duo won the International Gold Cup in 2017 and 2018 but had lost both starts in 2019. A late mistake dislodged Frost in the My Lady's Manor, they followed that miscue with a dull effort in the Virginia Gold Cup. Fisher regrouped, skipped the fall season and gave the call to Mitchell. The two-time timber champion and the hurdle jockey began a six-month tutorial from Fisher's Maryland base.

"I've been riding him since January. To start with, he was very aggressive into his fences, so I made a point to school behind horses and get him to jog into his fences, not to rush into them, not to attack them. And trying to get his head carriage a bit higher, I wasn't too keen with him going to the races and putting his head as low as he had done. Just trying to coax him into lifting his head a little bit," Mitchell said. "We had a school around the Grand National field in the

spring, we went a really slow gallop and he had his head really low then, I thought, we need to do some work to get his head up. I didn't want to go into those size fences with his head on the floor."

The 4-mile grudge match with Andi'amu didn't last long.

"It was a shame because I think it would have been a good contest," Mitchell said. "We'll never know."

■ Without a novice stakes scheduled at Middleburg or Virginia Gold Cup, Fisher stepped last year's champion novice, Snap Decision, into the open stakes division for the \$35,000 David Semmes Memorial.

No problem.

Sean McDermott deputized for Willie McCarthy, injured at Middleburg, on the Bruton Street runner and settled the son of Hard Spun near the back of the seven-horse field before taking his foot off the brake and powering to a 4½-length score over Chief Justice (GB) and Redicean (GB). Snap Decision joined stablemate Moscato at the top of the division.

Aboard for the first time, McDermott listened to McCarthy, watched a few replays and painted by numbers after that.

"I didn't have any plan going out, Jack's instructions are, 'Do you know what you're doing?' I said, 'I'll see how it goes.' Ride on instinct. I kind of planned on sitting third, he relaxed much better than I anticipated. We went a strong pace without being crazy fast, it wasn't Saratoga speed or Belmont speed," McDermott said. "He jumped really well, put down with me on one hurdle, I figured it was better to sit than to ask. He stays well, I learned a lot about him, he's a very nice horse. He's a bit different than the likes of Moscato."

McDermott won four races on Moscato back in 2017.

"I always thought he was at the top of the tree here, he seems to be able to go a relentless gallop, I never got to the bottom of his stamina," McDermott said. "Snap Decision probably has a higher cruising speed and is a slightly better jumper, he's probably best over 2½ miles but he has the class for 2."

■ Mitchell added three other winners to secure his first four-bagger. He moved to the top of the leaderboard after maiden wins on Lonely Weekend, Fast Car and Shark Du Belais (Fr).

Aboard Lonely Weekend for a late-running second at Middleburg, Mitchell settled the 5-year-old near the back of the 10-horse field before moving closer with a turn to



FUELED BY 

Once part of trainer Kieron Magee's flat barn in Maryland, Doc Cebu flashes his timber form en route to victory in the Virginia Gold Cup June 27.

go. The son of Tiznow put his experience edge to work, splitting rivals on the turn and staving off Princeville (NZ), making his American debut, and Mr. Bridger, making his hurdle debut. Owned by Riverdee Stable and trained by Todd Wyatt, Lonely Weekend graduated in his sixth hurdle start.

"He's a big, rangy horse, he's always run well, he's just matured and put it all together. He was ready to run as a 3-year-old and it just didn't work out, in the long run, it's probably helped the horse. With a horse you believe in, it's easy to do that, just chip away. You always thought he was going to polish off a race like that," Wyatt said. "I was as confident as I could ever be, I loved his race at Middleburg. You've got a champion jockey riding him, he schooled him, he finished up on him last week, just wish him luck, 'Go win me a race.' That's what I love about good riders, you don't need to talk about last time, he'll figure it out."

Following the script of Middleburg simmer and Gold Cup boil, Mitchell guided Fast Car to win the 4-year-old maiden for prominent flat owner Bob LaPenta and Fisher. The \$625,000 yearling purchase won his career debut in a maiden claimer for Fisher at Colonial Downs in the fall before finish-

ing fourth and third over hurdles. Fifth at Middleburg, the son of Verrazano powered to the lead late and held off first-time starter Baltimore Bucko (GB) while looking right and drifting left in the final strides.

"We expected him to run really well, he's just so green still. The problem was trying to get him to switch off and jump, you're not going to make up much ground at Middleburg. Great Meadow is a lot kinder for a green horse, you've got that long stretch," Mitchell said. "He's so immature because he's had such a lack of racing, his mind is just getting the hang of racing. I was surprised how easily he did it. He did look around, he was quite difficult to keep a straight line, there's plenty more there, which is quite exciting."

■ Tom Garner provided some salve to the Gold Cup wound, winning the opener on Gillian Johnston's Emerald Rocket (Ire) and the third on Ballybristol's Mercoeur (Fr) for trainer Leslie Young.

"Then the day went downhill," Garner said. "The Gold Cup was a mistake that has never happened before and it won't happen again. I've ridden all around the world and I've never taken the wrong course,



FUELED BY **The Mill**

Snap Decision (left) catches Chief Justice and Redicean (right) at the last fence of the David Semmes Memorial, the hurdle headliner on the Virginia Gold Cup card.

including going around the Pardubice, I was very annoyed at myself. If I was in front I wouldn't have taken that course, he was so lovely and relaxed, I had my head down and was following Sean (McDermott). Fair play, it was all a big mess up, but there you go, it's racing, these things happen, I've got to move on."

An early double softened the sting.

Aboard for the first time, Garner placed Emerald Rocket just off the pace set by French Light (Fr) before collecting the front-runner to score by a half-length. The first two slapped 11 lengths on the rest of the field led by Lemonade Thursday.

Garner helped import Emerald Rocket from Ollie Murphy's British yard last year. Fresh off the plane, the son of Society Rock finished third in the Harry E. Harris 4-year-old race at Far Hills and third in a tough maiden at Callaway Gardens.

"I knew his races inside and out, he's one you have to kid along, you can't get him off the bridle too soon and you can't get in front too soon. The blinkers have definitely helped," Garner said. "He traveled beautifully, I had it in my head that I didn't want to join French Light too soon, because I knew I knew if I just caught him on the line, I might catch him a little flat footed. I popped the last and had something to aim at, he just got there, he would be exciting for Saratoga."

Two races later, Garner allowed Mercoeur (Fr) to roll to the lead in the 3-mile steeplechase and that's where they stayed, easily turning back Alfred Hunt winner Invocation and Pac Yer Tack.

"He gave me a great ride. He was a bit keen early, my intentions weren't to make it," Garner said. "Jack Doyle told me before I rode him at Middleburg, 'Whatever you do, don't make it. He'll look about.' He was pulling early and I thought there was no sense both of us pulling so I let him stride on and get into that high cruising speed he has, he got into a lovely rhythm, jumped great."

■ "It just went perfect, for lack of a better word."

That's the perfect word for your first career win.

Twenty-year-old apprentice jockey Elizabeth Scully guided Elucidation (Ire) to a polished win in the ratings hurdle. Owned by Irv Naylor and trained by Cyril Murphy, the 6-year-old scythed his way through the field, engaged Bodes Well (Ire) in the stretch and rolled to a 1½-length tally. Hepcat finished third.

"Everything fell into place, it went a lot easier than I thought it was going to, he just moved up gradually so nicely," Scully said. "He just winged the last two perfectly. I knew Cyril would have him fit, I wasn't worried about that at all. I had plenty of horse. It was



Apprentice Elizabeth Scully enjoys her first ride to the winner's circle aboard Elucidation, who captured the Virginia Gold Cup's allowance hurdle for trainer Cyril Murphy (right).

definitely a dream come true, it didn't feel real. It took 24 hours before it actually hit."

Scully's first pony was too fast for the show ring so she went fox hunting, then pony racing and a trip to the 2012 Maryland Hunt Cup gassed the car and turned the key for her steeplechase career.

"That's what got me hooked. I started riding for trainers after that," Scully said. "I love exercise riding and I always go to the races as a groom but I definitely always wanted to ride. I figured I might not be any good but I at least wanted to give it a try, that's why I'm so grateful that Cyril gave me the opportunity."

Making her third career ride over fences, Scully made it look easy on a horse who she knows from morning work at Murphy's barn.

"I ride him a lot, he's one of my favorite rides, maybe my favorite," Scully said. "Cyril kept saying he had one for me, he had one for the apprentice hurdle race and it didn't go, everything kept falling apart. We didn't know if this race would go because it was a substitute race, I knew Graham (Watters) had a ride, so I just texted Cyril and was like, 'If you can't find anyone else...' He texted me the Friday before to see if I could come school him, I figured if the schooling went well that day it would work out. It was unreal." ■

STAKES WINNERS

Complete up-to-date statistics on this year's Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners can be found at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigree, race record, produce record of dam, and much more.

Maryland-bred



LAUREN KING

DOUBLE CROWN, b.g., 2017, by Bourbon Courage—Two Columbus, by Two Punch. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis; owned by Reeves Thoroughbred Racing; trained by Katherine Ritvo. \$75,000 **Roar S**, 6½ fur., 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, May 16; \$75,000 **Carry Back S**, 7 fur., 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, July 4.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

FIELD PASS, gr./ro.c., 2017, by Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. Bred by Mark Brown Grier; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Maker. \$100,000 **Dania Beach S**, 1 mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Gulfstream, Feb. 1; \$200,000 **Jeff Ruby Steaks-G3**, 1½ mi., synthetic, 3-year-olds, Turfway, March 14; \$100,000 **Audubon S**, 1½ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Churchill, June 20; \$100,000 **Transylvania S-G3**, 1¼ mi., turf, 3-year-olds, Keeneland, July 12; 3rd **War Chant S**.



EQUI-PHOTO INC.

LAKI, ch.g., 2013, by Cuba—Truthful Dutch, by Swear by Dixie. Bred by Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker; owned by Hillside Equestrian

Meadows; trained by Damon R. Dilodovico. \$75,000 **Oceanport Centennial S**, 5 fur., 3 & up, Monmouth, July 3.



PROJECT WHISKEY, dk.b./br.f., 2017, by Tapizar—Over the Moon, by Malibu Moon. Bred by Dark Hollow Farm; owned by Cash is King LLC and LC Racing; trained by Robert E. Reid, Jr. \$300,000 **Delaware Oaks-G3**, 1¼ mi., 3-year-old fillies, Delaware, July 4.

New Jersey-bred



EQUI-PHOTO INC.

PRANCING WARRIOR, dk.b./br.m., 2015, by Bold Warrior—Quality Affair, by Elusive Quality. Bred by Hal Snowden Jr.; owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia and Chuck Spina; trained by Chuck Spina. \$75,000 **Spruce Fir H**, 6 fur., registered N.J.-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Monmouth, July 4.



EQUI-PHOTO INC.

ROYAL URN, ch.c., 2016, by Kantharos—Born to Royalty, by King of Kings (Ire). Bred by John Bowers Jr.; owned by Roseland Farm Stable (Bowers); trained by Kelly J. Breen. \$75,000 **John J. Reilly H**, 6 fur., registered N.J.-breds, 3 & up, Monmouth, July 5.

Pennsylvania-bred

NEWSTOME, gr./ro.c., 2017, by Golden-cents—Newstouse, by Unbridled's Song. Bred by Equivine Farm; owned by Marie F. Trombetta; trained by Michael J. Trombetta. \$100,000 **Woodstock S**, 6 fur., 3-year-olds, Woodbine, June 13.

Virginia-bred

AMERICAN DUBAI, dk.b./br.h., 2013, by E Dubai—Smash Review, by Bates Motel. Bred by Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III; owned and trained by Rodney C. Richards. \$25,000 **Ruidoso Sprint H**, 5½ fur., 3 & up, Ruidoso, June 14.

West Virginia-bred



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

DR. FEELGOOD, gr./ro.g., 2015, by Fiber Sonde—Happy Numbers, by Polish Numbers. Bred by Francis W. Daniel III; owned by Jill Daniel; trained by Crystal G. Pickett. \$50,000 **It's Only Money S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited W.Va.-breds, 3 & up, Charles Town, June 6.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

TWIRLING OWEN, b.f., 2017, by Twirling Candy—Daylight's Coming, by Stormy Atlantic. Bred and owned by James Franklin Miller; trained by Anthony Farrior. \$50,000 **Its Binn Too Long S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited W.Va.-bred 3-year-old fillies, Charles Town, May 22; \$50,000 **Fancy Buckles S**, 4½ fur., registered accredited W.Va.-bred fillies and mares, 3 & up, Charles Town, June 5.

One of those trades that helped both teams

Thoroughbred owners come in all sizes, shapes and circumstances. There are scions of fabulously wealthy families born into the sport who, with the help of a team of experts, continue a family tradition. There are captains of industry, commerce, and, now, the internet who grew up going to the track with Uncle Leo and have always dreamed of seeing the silks they designed on the back of their fifth grade copy book in the winner's circle at Belmont. There are small businessmen and women with a few extra bucks to spend who get together with a group of friends and buy, as the Irish say "a leg" of a horse or two and there are syndicate members in various racing ventures.

It seems, invariably, that, no matter how one gets involved in racing, a filly comes

along that has great success on the track or has a promising career cut short by injury. Whether or not the owner had plans to become a breeder, he or she finds it impossible to let her go and decides breeding just this one will be an interesting hobby. Thus, a Thoroughbred breeder is born.

There is another type of breeder. This person grew up with horses in one discipline or another, perhaps had a short career in some other field and realized that working a farm and raising horses is the life that would make them happy and content no matter the financial risks involved. They have the foresight to buy a piece of land and spend the next 40 or so years scrambling to keep the wolf from the door and the fences fixed. Such a man was Marshall Jenney.

Marshall had graduated from Princeton in 1963 and had a stint as an investment banker in New York only long enough to scrape together the stake he needed to buy the first 120 acres of Derry Meeting Farm in Chester County, Pa. Those 120 would eventually grow to 400. Along the way he spent a breeding season at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky learning the ropes of breeding and foaling mares.

I had the pleasure of knowing Marshall for about 30 years; first as a showman for his consignment at Saratoga in the early 1970s and later as a neighbor after we bought our farm in Cochranville in 1980. Pleasure is not the right word when describing being in Marshall's orbit. Swinging from cringe-worthy to awe-inspiring better describes the experience. Marshall was loud and crass in his joke telling and profligate in his spending but most of that spending was poured right back into his ever-expanding Derry Meeting Farm.

Marshall's business plan centered on the Saratoga yearling sale held each August in New York. In those days Keeneland's July sale was the premier yearling market in the world with Saratoga close behind. Fasig-Tipton, which conducted the sale in Saratoga, was very East Coast-oriented at that time and most of its directors, as well as consignors, were breeders from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Those breeders took the cream of their yearling crops to Saratoga.

Many of the things that Marshall told me have stuck with me. One of the most salient was that if you're going to own and run a large breeding farm you have to hit a home run every three years. You can't make it boarding client mares and selling horses for modest profits. You have to jack one out of the park on a regular basis. At this, Marshall, who died in 2000 at age 60, was the maestro.

Case in point: Nimble Folly. In November 1980, Keeneland decided to have the first day of its breeding stock sale on the Friday before the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky mixed sale. Keeneland would then take the weekend off to make room for Fasig and resume the sale on Monday. Dixie and I had a small consignment and as relative newcomers we were assigned to Barn 40, the farthest barn from the sales pavilion. Marshall was assigned to the same barn and he was not happy. He was selling his wonderful mare Tananarive (GB) in foal to Mr. Prospector and thought the daughter of *Le Fabuleux was a home-run horse. For three days he moaned about the fact that



Marshall Jenney, here with 1970s steeplechase star Inkslinger, knew the importance of a home run.

nobody was going to find his mare in Barn 40 and how Keeneland had “screwed” him because he was a regular Saratoga consignor.

Sale day came and Marshall led her up there and sold her for \$875,000. Marshall and I both learned an important lesson that day. They will find a good horse no matter where it is hidden and you can't sell a bad one no matter how you showcase it.

The following day Fasig-Tipton was holding a reduction sale for Jane Lurger's Christiana Stable. Christiana was a powerful stable managed by Marshall's best friend Richie Jones. Christiana was selling some beautifully bred race fillies and broodmare prospects. Among them was Nimble Folly, a 1977 daughter of Cyane and the Restless Native mare Instant Sin. Nimble Folly was unraced. She was however from the best of the Christiana families that had produced the champion filly Tempted as well as the major stakes winners Misgivings, Smart, Tingle Stone, Pumpkin Moonshine and Salem. Marshall followed her into the ring and bought her for \$285,000. Watching from the sidelines, I was gobsmacked.

Later, I saw Marshall in the bar (where else) yucking it up with his Irish buddies.

I went over, pulled him aside and said “Marshall, you idiot, you couldn't even keep that money in your pocket for 24 hours. Are you crazy?” He laughed, bought me a drink, and told me what a great buy he had made.

Of course, in three years I was eating my words. Nimble Folly's first foal by Danzig which Marshall sold at Saratoga for \$175,000 (when Danzig's stud fee was \$10,000) was named Contredance. Racing in the same colors as Danzig, she won the Arlington-Washington Lassie-G1 and Adirondack-G2 as a 2-year-old. In the summer of 1985, Marshall sold Nimble Folly in foal to Northern Dancer, her Danzig filly foal, and a 1986 season to Danzig as a package to Juddmonte Farm. The package, brokered by James Delahooke, was reported to be in excess of \$2,000,000.

The deal was a classic “trade that helps both teams.” Marshall had his home run, right on schedule, and Juddmonte got a blue hen mare who produced a string of major stakes winners and stakes producers including Shotiche (the in-utero Northern Dancer) who became a Grade 3 winner; Old Alliance (on the 1986 Danzig season) who became a listed stakes winner in

England; Skimble, a Lyphard filly who won graded stakes, earned \$777,518 and produced Skimming, who won the Pacific Classic twice and earned \$2,286,601; and Flit, another Lyphard filly who produced English classic winner Wince (the dam of Group 1 winner Quiff).

The Danzig filly at Nimble Folly's side at the sale (Nimble Feet) also became a blue hen for Juddmonte, producing stakes winners Eltish (Cox's Ridge), who won two group races and finished second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 at 2 and earned \$704,186; Forest Gazelle (Green Forest) who won the Los Angeles-G3 and set a track record of 1:07.90 for 6 furlongs in the process; and two other stakes winners.

Marshall, from his base in Pennsylvania, bestrode the Thoroughbred world with a joy and gusto that was unique among the legends of the sport. ✱

Now retired (mostly), Rick Abbott has been a breeder, owner, sales consignor, racing commissioner and pretty much anything else you can think of in Thoroughbred racing. He and his wife Dixie operated their farm Charlton for years in Pennsylvania.

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Social Inclusion leads local freshmen sires

Within eight days in early July, Diamond B Farm stallion Social Inclusion shot into the top five on the nation's freshmen sires lists with two winners at Gulfstream Park.

First into the winner's circle was Joe Imbesi's Social Exclusion after crusing home a 4¼-length winner first time out July 1. Racing for a \$65,000 purse in the 5-furlong maiden special weight on the turf, the bay filly was never headed through fractions of :21.29 and :44.26 and finished in :56.50 while defeating nine rivals. Social Exclusion is the first named foal out of the Tale of the Cat mare Genuine Treasure and was bred by Steven Smith in Florida.

Social Inclusion's first runner, the chestnut filly Special Inclusion, shot to the front in her third start July 8, shook clear and fought down the stretch to hold on and win by a neck going 5 furlongs on the main track. Sent off as favorite in the field of 10 fillies racing for a \$25,000 tag, Special Inclusion had finished second in her debut in late April. Owned by Soldi Stable and

trained by Gilberto Zerpa, she was bred in Florida by Manuel Azpurua out of the winning Drewman mare Right Special.

Through July 14, Social Inclusion ranked fourth on the list of first-crop sires with \$71,250 in progeny earnings.

Social Inclusion began his stud career at Woodford Thoroughbreds in Florida before moving to Diamond B in Mohrsville, Pa., for 2019. The son of Triple Crown sire Pioneerof the Nile won or placed in seven of nine starts while earning \$450,800.

Making his debut at 3, Social Inclusion dominated his first two starts, winning by 7½ lengths while getting 6 furlongs in 1:09.35 in a Gulfstream Park maiden special weight, and following with an allowance score, by 10 lengths over future champion older horse Honor Code, in a track record 1:40.97 for 1⅛ miles.

Three times that year Social Inclusion finished third in graded stakes, the most prestigious the Grade 1 Preakness behind California Chrome. Social Inclusion also hit the board in the Grade 1 Wood Memorial



(behind Wicked Strong) and Grade 2 Woody Stephens (to Bayern). He added a win at 4 when taking a 1⅛-mile Parx allowance by nearly 12 lengths.

A full-brother to stakes-placed Road to Damascus, Social Inclusion is out of the Grade 2-placed Saint Ballado mare Saint Bernadette. Standing as the property of a partnership, the 9-year-old bay has 21 foals in his first crop. He stood the 2020 season for \$5,000 live foal.

A holiday celebration for Golden Years

Making his debut in the first race on Charles Town's July 4 card, O'Sullivan Farms-bred Natural Attraction added to the celebration as the first winner for the farm's 8-year-old Not For Love stallion Golden Years.

Owned by O'Sullivan in partnership with Huntertown Farm, Natural Attraction is one of six foals in his sire's first crop. Trained by Javier Contreras, the 2-year-old West Virginia-bred out of Pardon My Excess (by In Excess-Ire) chased the early pace in the 4½-furlong maiden special weight before winning by a length over eight other first-time starters.

Golden Years became the first O'Sullivan homebred to stand at the historic farm when he was retired in 2017. Ellen Charles had purchased the West Virginia-bred colt as a yearling for \$120,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale. Under her Hillwood Stables colors, Golden Years made four starts at 2 and recorded three wins, all at Laurel Park, including the 2014



Maryland Million Nursery Stakes and a 7¼-length romp in the Marylander Stakes. In his only start at 3, he was third in a blanket finish in Laurel's Miracle Wood in February, but exited the race with a knee injury. After an unsuccessful attempt to get him back to the races, he retired with \$156,760 in earnings from five starts.

Golden Years is one of three winners from four starters for Sweet Annuity (by Oh Say), a five-time stakes winner of

\$260,052. The mare's only non-winner, Prized Annuity, is a stakes producer.

Second dam Roberta Grump is one of the most recognizable names in West Virginia racing. The prolific producer had 11 starters from 12 foals, all winners, led by \$2 million earner Russell Road. The mare's other top runners include stakes winners Shesagrump too (\$453,005) and Shes-anothergrump (\$231,629) and stakes-placed \$448,038-earner Natures Annuity. Roberta Grump's foals, making the majority of their starts at Charles Town, earned a combined \$3,658,120.

Her winning daughter Early Annuity produced as her first foal Charitable Annuity, the two-time West Virginia Breeders Classic winner who earned \$866,955. Shesagrump too is the dam of Grumpelstiltskin, a stakes winner with earnings just shy of \$200,000.

Owned by a partnership between breeder O'Sullivan Farms and Hillwood, Golden Years stood for \$1,500 in 2020.

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321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136

410-252-2100

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MHBA announces new board members

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association membership has selected one incumbent member, a 2019 presidential appointee and three new members to the 2020 Board of Directors. Dictated by MHBA bylaws, the annual election fills five open seats on the board. Those elected will serve for three years. Bill Reightler, who served on the board from 2010-15 and 2017-19, is this year's only incumbent.

Ellen M. Charles. A prominent owner and breeder in Maryland who races as Hillwood Stables, Charles will serve her first three-year term.

The granddaughter of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the Post cereal fortune, resides in Washington, D.C., Charles has served as president of the board of Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens for 25 years.

Owner of graded stakes-winning sprinter Bandbox, who stands at Northview Stallion Station, Charles owns broodmares, horses of racing age and young stock. She had connections to three 2019 Maryland-bred champions as co-breeder/co-owner of Majestic Reason, owner of Cordmaker and breeder of Laddie Liam. A board member of Beyond The Wire and past board member of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Charles hopes "to



Elected to the MHBA board of directors for 2020 are, clockwise from top left: Ellen Charles, Michael Golden, Leonard Pineau, Bill Reightler and Tom Rooney.

restore racing to its success before the pandemic and continue supporting breeders' bonuses and aftercare programs."

Michael D. Golden DVM. A small animal veterinarian,



Golden is the vice president of family-owned Northview Stallion Station and Sycamore Hall Farm in Chesapeake City (Cecil County), and will serve on the board for the first time.

The Baltimore resident has been involved in Thoroughbred breeding and racing since 1975, highlighted by homebred Clever Mind's win in the 2017 Maryland Million Nursery, and has owned the Veterinary Housecall Service and Clinic, based in Crofton, since 1997.

While on the board, Golden aims to "support an agenda conducive to the growth and expansion of Thoroughbred breeding in Maryland, promote ongoing efforts to improve the safety of Thoroughbred racing, and help the transition of horses from racing to a second career when not suitable for breeding."

A. Leonard Pineau VMD. Owner of Three Pines Farm in

Glyndon (Baltimore County), Pineau has bred the likes of graded stakes winner Purely Hot and stakes winners Ten Out of Ten and Music City.

A veterinarian at Aardmore Veterinary Hospital, Pineau is a member of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association and American VMA, while also serving as president of the Greater Baltimore VMA. President of Pet E.R. and board member of the McDonogh School, Pineau has the goal of "ensuring the highest standard of integrity, honesty and drug-free racing."

William S. Reightler. Founder and president of Bill Reightler Sales and Consulting Agency, Reightler begins his fourth term on the board, having served from 2010-15, and 2017-19. The resident of White Hall (Harford County) owns Hillrise Farm with wife Barrie.

Serving on the MHBA Yearling Show, Building and Legislative committees, Reightler is also a board member of Maryland State Fair, and past board member of Maryland Horse Council, the Maryland Agricultural Commission, and Maryland Association of Wildlife Conservation.

One of the leading Thoroughbred sales agents in the Mid-Atlantic, Reightler plans to "continue the stewardship that has resulted in Maryland's achievement of creating a strong regional program for racing and breeding."

Thomas J. Rooney. A former U.S. Congress member, whose family owns Shamrock Farms in Woodbine (Carroll County), Rooney was a presidential appointee to the board in 2019.

Based in Tequesta, Fla., he is an attorney, instructor of constitutional law at the U.S. Military Academy at West

Point and CEO of Home Safe, a shelter for abused and abandoned children in Florida.

With a small breeding and racing program, Rooney strives to "make sure owners and breeders with small stables are represented." After working at the top level of politics, he understands "in order to move forward in a productive way, you have to have an open mind and understand all points of view."

Of the five directors whose terms expired in 2020, Larry Murray was ineligible to stand for reelection because of having served six consecutive years. Those whose terms have not expired are Richard F. Blue Jr., Michael Harrison DVM, Christy Holden, Michael Horning, Louis Merryman, Sabrina Moore, Kent Allen Murray, James B. Steele, David Wade and Theresa Wiseman.

Maryland-breds hit six figures at OBS sale



The \$300,000 filly by The Factor was one of three Maryland-breds to top six-figures in Florida in June.

Amidst the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic that created an ever-changing landscape for Thoroughbred sales across the country, seven Maryland-breds went through the ring at Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's 2020 spring sale of 2-year-olds, with six selling, three for six figures. The sale, rescheduled from its

original dates in April, was held June 9-12 in Ocala, Fla.

Hip 976 topped the Maryland-breds. The gray filly by The Factor out of the graded stakes-placed Malibu Moon mare Dream, sold for \$300,000 to Willis Horton Racing.

Consigned by RiceHorse Stables (Brandon and Ali Rice), the half-sister to stakes-

placed Caught Dream'n (by Blame) breezed an eighth in :10.20. She was bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Dorsey Brown, Arnold Davidov and David Schwaber and sold as a yearling at Keeneland September for \$100,000.

A Munnings colt out of the After Market mare Listen Boy, Hip 63, was consigned by

Grassroots Training & Sales and sold for \$140,000 to West Point Thoroughbreds, L.E.B., agent. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau, the dark bay worked an eighth in :10 flat. He was also a Keeneland September graduate when bringing \$80,000 in 2019.

Hip 785, a Frosted colt out of the graded stakes-winning Unbridled mare Belterra, was purchased by G S Inversiones Hipicas for \$120,000 from the consignment of Paul Sharp. The half-brother to stakes winner Taketheodds (by Street Sense) and current stakes-placed 3-year-old Mine Not Mine (by Golden Lad) worked an eighth in :10.40. He also sold for \$80,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

The Maryland-breds sold for an average of \$122,167, 32 percent higher than the sale's overall average.



MARYLAND-BRED STAKES WINNERS

Field Pass rolls with two stakes victories in three weeks



Coady Photography

Field Pass, the richest Maryland-bred of 2020, added to his total when edging Street Ready to take the \$100,000 Transylvania Stakes-G3 by a nose July 12 at Keeneland. It was the Three Diamonds Farm colorbearer's fourth stakes victory, and second graded, of the year, and came after a score in Churchill Downs' \$100,000 Audubon Stakes June 20.

Trainer Mike Maker said after Transylvania, where nine horses were separated by just over 2 lengths: "This horse loves to win. He's all heart. When he thought he was getting the lead, he started kinda backing off. When he felt the pressure, he dug back in."

Field Pass advanced steadily around the far turn and dueling with Fancy Liquor and Street Ready down the stretch to complete 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles on the turf in 1:42.56 as the favorite in a field of 10.

He was also the favorite in the 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mile Audubon on the turf, and won in 1:47.99. The gray 3-year-old boosted his earnings to \$418,610, \$302,860 earned this year. His career record is 5-2-1 from 11 career starts.

Bred by Mark Grier, Field Pass is a son of Lemon Drop Kid out of the Runaway Groom mare Only Me. She has produced three foals, with two winners from three starters, including Field Pass's half-brother You Must Chill (\$81,052).

Laki returns victorious in Oceanport Centennial Stakes

Hillside Equestrian Meadows' Laki came back better than ever in Monmouth Park's \$75,000 Oceanport Centennial Stakes July 3.

In his first start since finishing fifth as one of the favorites in the Maryland Million Sprint last October, the 7-year-old gelding broke right to the front and raced just off the leaders through fractions of :22.11 and :45.37. The Damon Dilodovico trainee began his move as he turned for home, drawing off to win 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in :57.62 for 5 furlongs. It was his first win at a track other than Laurel Park.

"He's been training so well coming into the race. I'm not

Reeses Thoroughbred Racing's Double Crown notched his second stakes win of 2020, living up to his 4-5 favoritism in the \$75,000 Carry Back Stakes for 3-year-olds July 4 at Gulfstream Park.

Coming off a strong win in the Roar Stakes in May, the bay gelding broke quickly before settling into fourth on the outside of stablemate Ournationonparade. Off fractions of :22.59 and :45.42, Double Crown outlasted a late challenge from With Verve to win by three-quarters of a length.

The Kathy Ritvo trainee finished 7 furlongs in 1:22.37. The race fit as the perfect step up from his previous start, the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -furlong Roar.

"He's tough. He has just enough speed to stay off the pace early and he closes well," said Dean Reeves, who owns the bay gelding with his wife Patti.

Reeves purchased Double Crown and Ournationonparade following their 1-2 finish in a Laurel Park maiden special weight last September.



Lauren King

The Maryland-breds have since met in a Gulfstream Park allowance, where Double Crown finished second despite being impeded by Ournationonparade after he lost his rider, and the Roar, where Ournationonparade finished fourth.

Double Crown's record is 3-1-0 from four career starts, with \$130,365 earned.

A son of Anchor and Hope Farm's Bourbon Courage, Double Crown was bred by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and their daughter Becky Davis. His dam Two Columbus, a daughter of Two Punch who earned \$149,281, has produced five foals, with three winners from four starters. The family traces back to Avie, dam of champion Lord Avie.



Equi-Photo, Inc.

surprised by this, even after eight months off," said Dilodovico. "Toward the end of the year last year he just needed to be refreshed. We weren't looking for the Covid-19-sized freshener but maybe it ended up helping him."

It was Laki's fifth stakes victory and first win since

the Frank Whiteley Jr. Stakes last spring. Along with scores in the Not For Love, Polyneesian and Howard and Sonda Bender Memorial, Laki finished second in the 2018 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G3 and third in last year's General George-G3.

The Maryland-bred champion older male of 2018 holds a record of 9-3-5 from 24 starts with earnings of \$513,632.

Bred by Tom Michaels and Lorna Baker, Laki is a son of the late Not For Love stallion Cuba out of Truthful Dutch, a winning daughter of Swear by Dixie. From five named foals, Laki is her only winner from three starters.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2020

(through July 2)

1. Field Pass.....\$242,860	11. Toy.....\$80,691
2. Majestic Reason.....150,000	12. Galerio.....78,597
3. Sharing.....126,171	13. Seany P.....75,885
4. Plata O Plomo.....118,376	14. Harpers First Ride....74,893
5. Alwaysmining.....116,000	15. My Friends Beer.....65,919
6. American Nina.....107,401	16. McKale.....65,760
7. Stroll Smokin.....91,572	17. Outofthepark.....64,467
8. Naughty Thoughts....87,279	18. Pitching Ari.....62,244
9. Blamed.....86,300	19. Youngest of Five.....62,120
10. Artful Splatter.....85,572	20. Plot the Dots.....57,849



MARYLAND FOAL REPORT



Golden Lad colt is out of Special Salute, a winning half-sister to stakes winners Talk Show Man and Just Jack.

CHRUSCIKI, by Polish Numbers, b.f., April 23, by Exaggerator. Nancy Lee Farms.

LADINA, by Wild Again, b.c., May 18, by Long River. Richard F. Blue Jr. Mare to Long River.

LITTLETOWN BRIDGE, by Stormin Fever, b.f., April 19, by Cuba. Moneylane Farms. Mare to I'm Steppin It Up.

PERFECT MEASURE, by Wildcat Heir, dk.b./br.f., April 23, by Golden Lad. Hamilton Smith. Mare to Irish War Cry.

RHYMES WITH LION, by Lion Hearted, dk.b./br.f., May 11, by Bandbox. Nancy Lee Farms.

ROYAL RENEGE, by Broken Vow, b.c., March 12, by Midnight Lute. Elizabeth M. Merryman. Mare to Golden Lad.



Colt from the first crop of Long River is out of \$109,940-earner Ladina.

SPECIAL SALUTE, by Rock Slide, dk.b./br.c., May 4, by Golden Lad. Michael J. Harrison DVM. Mare to Bourbon Courage.

ZEEZEE ZOOMZOOM, by Congrats, gr./ro.c., April 10, by Holy Boss. Elizabeth M. Merryman. Mare to Great Notion.

Maryland's leading sires

Supplied by The Jockey Club Information Services, these statistics compiled July 2 are for stallions who currently stand or completed their careers in Maryland. Lifetime earnings for stallions with at least one starter in 2020. † denotes freshman sire.

Earnings in 2020

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Great Notion.....	54	124	18	22	\$577,373
Friesan Fire.....	57	166	15	19	557,473
Golden Lad.....	32	70	9	10	472,944
Bandbox.....	25	66	11	14	415,447
Super Ninety Nine...	37	99	10	12	373,410
Bourbon Courage....	26	60	7	8	340,723
Seville (Ger).....	49	116	8	10	309,663
Street Magician.....	32	92	7	9	257,334
Not For Love.....	29	87	7	10	256,260
Orientate.....	41	99	8	8	231,628
Imagining.....	21	52	4	4	206,940
Nicanor.....	18	66	3	6	169,951
Petionville.....	19	59	5	6	167,368
Outflanker.....	16	51	6	8	156,929
Redeemed.....	25	62	4	4	111,264
Tritap.....	12	28	2	2	110,525

2-year-old earnings in 2020

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Great Notion.....	1	1	1	1	\$30,000
Seville (Ger).....	1	1	1	1	24,000
Bourbon Courage....	2	2	0	0	9,500
Golden Lad.....	1	1	0	0	8,000
Imagining.....	1	1	0	0	6,250

Earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love.....	845	19,471	686	2,897	\$80,806,155
Orientate.....	686	13,971	535	2,039	48,033,659
Petionville.....	667	14,381	520	1,937	45,521,202
Louis Quatorze.....	777	14,979	575	1,958	38,211,162
Lion Hearted.....	507	9,765	389	1,333	30,105,021
Outflanker.....	444	9,516	333	1,340	29,638,661
Great Notion.....	272	4,210	218	717	22,201,886
Friesan Fire.....	175	2,862	129	367	11,557,340
Rock Slide.....	222	3,927	151	440	11,458,194
Street Magician.....	111	1,815	80	229	6,976,195
Cherokee's Boy.....	75	1,539	49	150	4,101,108
Redeemed.....	66	900	38	93	3,133,320
Showing Up.....	88	1,168	55	135	2,572,960
Super Ninety Nine...	47	384	27	62	1,746,278
Bandbox.....	38	256	27	46	1,581,260
Seville (Ger).....	102	876	39	65	1,571,473
Tritap.....	30	280	19	40	1,439,093
Narrative (Ire).....	86	1,289	46	135	1,213,229
Golden Lad.....	34	138	15	25	1,139,415

2-year-old earnings lifetime

	Strs	Starts	Wnrs	Wins	Earnings
Not For Love.....	365	1,164	139	186	\$6,956,746
Orientate.....	367	1,155	141	183	5,333,131
Petionville.....	383	1,184	123	152	4,866,671
Louis Quatorze.....	338	1,047	104	130	3,509,023
Outflanker.....	229	924	94	125	3,466,391
Lion Hearted.....	224	733	81	111	3,096,416
Great Notion.....	98	296	42	58	2,244,757
Friesan Fire.....	102	317	34	38	1,732,327
Rock Slide.....	94	299	24	35	1,075,420
Street Magician.....	53	207	18	22	1,035,824
Golden Lad.....	19	69	10	15	674,471
Cherokee's Boy.....	24	105	8	13	641,664
Tritap.....	19	79	10	17	619,644
Bourbon Courage....	24	78	8	10	576,742
Super Ninety Nine...	29	109	13	18	576,353



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - August 2020 -

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Hoping for a comeback in New Jersey

by Linda Dougherty

Over the last several decades, the number of stallions and farms in New Jersey has steadily declined, for a myriad of reasons.

But since sports betting was legalized in the state in 2018, the once-vibrant industry has shown signs of life. Thanks to a \$10 million supplement pumped in by the state, the Jersey-bred bonus program was brought back in 2019, having been discontinued after the 2016 season. The supplement, which was also designed to help the racing program, triggered a 40 percent bonus, based on purse earnings, to owners of New Jersey-breds that finished first through third in open company at Monmouth Park or the Meadowlands.

The supplement was finally some good news for New Jersey's breeding industry, which has fought to survive over the years. Jersey-breds weren't as desirable once a pair of state race-tracks, Atlantic City and Garden State Park, closed for good, taking with them year-round racing opportunities. Farms were shuttered and the land sold to developers.

Consider this: In 1947, just after World War II ended, there were 30 stallions standing in the state, according to the 1948 *American Racing Manual*. More than 50 years later, in 2001, there were 26 stallions standing; the last two years, the number has been seven. And The Jockey Club reported that the Jersey-bred foal crop fell from 420 in 2000 to just 64 in 2018. Yet sports betting and the revival of the Jersey-bred bonus program may have stemmed its further decline, at least for the foreseeable future.

"The 40 percent bonus for New Jersey-breds running in open company was a positive sign

for our industry," said Mike Campbell, executive director of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. "Dennis Drazin [chairman and CEO of Darby Development, which operates Monmouth Park] and the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association have been very supportive of the New Jersey-bred program. Monmouth Park also added four stakes races to the calendar last year, and they were scheduled to be run again in 2020 before Covid-19 changed everything."

Campbell added that the purse subsidy demonstrated that New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and the state Legislature understand the importance of the racing and breeding industries in the state, and the impact the equine industry has on open space and jobs.

Forty years ago, when New Jersey had ample year-round racing, it wasn't unusual to have annual Jersey-bred foal crops numbering 1,200 or more. But the loss of Garden State and Atlantic City, as well as neighboring states that began reaping the rewards of casino gaming revenue (Delaware Park, for instance, in 1995), the foal crop plummeted.

In 2017, 76 foals were registered according to The Jockey Club. After the 2018 dip there were 67 registered in 2019, said Campbell.

"I expect there will be between 85-90 New Jersey-bred foals born in 2020 based on the reports we have received," he said. "I am optimistic the foal crop will increase in the future as we have seen breeders who foaled in surrounding states bring their mares back to foal in New Jersey."



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Average earnings per New Jersey-bred starter rebounded well in 2019, too, from \$26,830 in 2018 to \$34,160, The Jockey Club reported.

Longtime Jersey breeder Sam Fieramosca, who owns Colonial Farms in Colts Neck, said that there was more interest in his stallion, Sea Wizard, this year, and he expanded his broodmare band. If it hadn't been for the owner bonus, he said, he might not be in business. Fieramosca, who has been operating since 1950, said it hasn't been easy keeping Colonial Farms running through turbulent times. But he's hopeful that sports betting revenue and the owner bonus will prove to be just the tonic the industry needs.

"Last year, Sea Wizard bred 12 mares, and this year that number doubled," said Fieramosca.

In Sea Wizard's career debut at Belmont Park, the \$190,000 OBS 2-year-old trained by the late John Mazza finished second to eventual graded winner Destin; he came back to break his maiden with a flourish at Gulfstream Park next out.

"Sea Wizard had tremendous speed and was less than a second off the track record for 5½ furlongs when he broke his maiden," said Fieramosca. "Then he got hurt, but with his pedigree and speed, I took him for a stallion."

The son of Uncle Mo, bred in Kentucky by R. Alex Rankin and Richard and Patricia Lenihan, is the first foal out of the Tale of the Cat mare Sea Road, a multiple stakes winner of nearly

\$200,000 who did her best running on the turf. Second dam Packet, by Polish Navy, was also a multiple stakes winner on the turf, and hails from a rich Claiborne Farm family. Packet produced multiple graded stakes winner Great Intentions, as well as The Right Pew, the dam of Grade 1 winner Karlovy Vary. Deeper in the family are champions War Pass and Slew o' Gold, as well as classic winner Coastal and numerous other Grade 1 winners including Aptitude and Jack Milton.

Sea Wizard, who stood his second season in 2020, stands for \$1,500 live foal. Also standing at Colonial is Il Postino, by Distorted Humor—Awful Smart, by Black Tie Affair (Ire), who stands for \$1,500.

New Jersey's stallion lineup also includes Ali, a son of Pioneer of the Nile, who stands at Greenfields Farm; King Puma, a son of Forest Wildcat, who stands at Sleeter Farm; Love Who, a son of Not For Love, who stands at Hidden Acres 4-D Farm; and Coastal Warning (by Coastal Storm) and Wild Court (by Arlenes Valentine), who both stand at Batcha Farms.

"I think [the New Jersey breeding program] has a shot," said Lynn Ott, who bred two mares this spring to the prolific stallion Hey Chub (not standing in NJ in 2020), and who has supported the program for many years with her husband, Al. "New Jersey-breds are resilient beasts. They keep running. People love them. I know I do. I know a lot of people do. If racing in New Jersey holds on, New Jersey-breds will, too."

Leonard Green named 2020 "Buddy" Raines Award recipient

Long-time owner, breeder and racing consultant Leonard Green, whose D.J. Stable has been a fixture at Monmouth Park for nearly four decades, has been named the recipient of the Virgil "Buddy" Raines Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Raines Award, celebrating its 25th year, is traditionally presented during Monmouth Park's opening day press conference. With an altered schedule due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Monmouth Park's season was to get underway Friday, July 3.

Green joins a notable list of past recipients whose exemplary conduct has earned them the reward for their professionalism, integrity and service to Thoroughbred racing.

"Monmouth Park has always been home to me. It represents one of the finest racing establishments in the country," Green said. "I am deeply honored to be recognized for this distinguished award and am proud to be a member of its impressive roster of recipients. I personally want to thank Dennis Drazin for this award, and for all his hard work in keeping horse racing viable in New Jersey."

Drazin, chairman and CEO of Darby Development, operator of Monmouth Park, said Green "exemplifies everything that is good about Thoroughbred racing."

"The Raines Award honors the very best in our sport and Leonard Green has represented that for many years now," Drazin added.

Leonard and Lois Green co-own D.J. Stable, which was Monmouth Park's leading owner three times. D.J. Stable has won almost 500 races at the "Oceanport Oval," ranging from claiming races to graded stakes. Over the years the Greens have campaigned (solely or in partnership) almost 30 graded stakes winners, including 2018 Eclipse Award-winning Jaywalk, A Thread of Blue, Another Miracle, Diamond King, Do It With Style, Mo' Green, Shooter, Songandaprayer and Sower. The Greens have also bred or co-bred the graded stakes-winning Central Banker, Hoppertunity, November Snow and Senate Appointee among dozens of other notable stakes winners.

"We have been fortunate to win races at tracks around the world, but standing in the winner's circle at Monmouth Park



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is still my greatest thrill," Green said. "Of course we could not have won all those races at Monmouth without the assistance of talented trainers like Walter Reese, John Servis, Joe Orseno and Gary Contessa and Hall of Fame jockeys Julie Krone, Craig Perret and Chris Antley, and Joe Bravo. They all should be recognized for their respective efforts as well."

Green, a New Jersey Certified Public Accountant, is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Owner/President Management Program. He holds a master's degree in Taxation, with Honors, from New York University and an undergraduate degree in Accounting from Rutgers University. For almost 20 years, Green has taught Entrepreneurship and Family Business

courses at Babson College. Green is also Founder and Chairman of New Jersey-based accounting and advisory firm "The Green Group." The firm specializes in the Thoroughbred industry and has over 700 equine-related clients, including many of the top-rated partnerships and syndications, as well as alliances with fellow owners and breeders, trainers and jockeys.

Green has also been featured on CNBC "Business to Business" for stories focusing on making money in the horse breeding and racing industries, and is a regular columnist for the Thoroughbred Daily News. In 2017 Green released a top selling business book, *The Entrepreneur's Playbook*.

The Equine Science Center at Rutgers University announces research fundraising initiative for veterans with PTSD

The Equine Science Center has announced its fundraising initiative kick-off for a large-scale research project focusing on Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The research project, conducted by the Equine Science Center at Rutgers University, will focus on the horse/human bond, and how EAAT affects both humans and horses during these types of therapy sessions. "It is important that we are not only able to fund the research that will be conducted, but also cover all costs associated with the veterans who will be volunteering their time for this important cause," said Center Director Dr. Karyn Malinowski. "This will be the first time research conducted with EAAT will measure the same physiological markers of stress and well-being simultaneously in both the horses and veterans."

The proposed project, an eight-week research trial by Ph.D. candidate Ms. Ellen Rankins, will examine equine and human health in the treatment of PTSD, specifically within the New Jersey veteran population. "The study will look at how the interactions between the horses and humans, sometimes referred to as a 'horse/human bond' affect one another," said Rankins. "Not only will data be collected during the trial period, we will also follow up with the participants to observe how long these changes are sustained over time." Rankins looks to enlist 120 participants for the project. From this group, 30 combat veterans diagnosed with PTSD will be selected to go through the therapy sessions.

There has been an outpouring of support for the project, with early supporters including New Jersey Assemblyman Ronald S. Dancer from New Jersey's 12th legislative district. Assemblyman Dancer serves on the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee and is himself a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army. "Growing up I saw first-hand the bond between horses and people, myself included, and the good that can come from that connection" said Assemblyman Dancer. "But when we then go to get these types of equine therapies covered by insurance, the first question asked is 'where is the data, show me the science to prove that this type of therapy works.' My hope is that the research conducted at the Equine Science Center will be able to scientifically demonstrate the effectiveness of equine assisted activities and therapy."

Donations can be made at any time by visiting give.rutgers.edu/escresearch. The project is a partnership with statewide stakeholders including: the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Special Strides, located in Monroe, N.J. (where the therapy sessions will be conducted); the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers University; the Office of Veterans and Military Programs and Services at Rutgers; and the Rutgers Business School – Military and Veteran Engagement Programs.

For additional information, contact Public Relations Specialist Kyle Hartmann at kylehart@njaes.rutgers.edu, and for information about donating to the project, contact Leadership Gifts Officer Roz Beberman at roz.bebberman@rutgers.edu or 848-932-3593.



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NJ-Bred Foal Gallery



Hey Chub colt born May 14 out of the multiple stakes-winning New Jersey-bred Karmageddon (by Wildcat Heir) was bred by Headless Horsemen Racing LLC and foaled at Greenfields Farm.



Will's Way mare Waytooeasy and her foal, a filly by Ali bred by William Purdey Jr. and foaled at Greenfields Farm May 15. This is the first foal by New Jersey sire Ali, who is a half-brother to multiple graded stakes winner Silver Prospector.



Army Brat, by Army Mule, is the first foal out of Milaya. The filly was foaled March 14 at Bright View Farm and was bred by ARM Consulting LLC.



Three-time New Jersey Broodmare of the Year Irish Sovereign produced a full brother to the graded stakes-winning New Jersey-bred Irish Strait June 2. The son of English Channel was bred by Isabelle de Tomaso and foaled at Overbrook Farm.



Colonial Farms bred this filly by New Jersey stallion Sea Wizard out of Splendored Thing (by Langfuhr). The filly was foaled Feb. 28 at Colonial Farms.



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North Carolina



THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

August 2020

President's message

After a two-month absence, the NCTA newsletter is finally back, along with horse racing. We did not contribute for the June and July issue due to a lack of members' horses running and only two winners during that time period. There just wasn't enough "news" to fill two pages.

During this time, I learned of the passing of Frank Coniglio, a long-time NCTA supporter and breeding partner with Beth Muirhead, one of our founding members. Even though Frank lived in Florida, he continued his membership. I could always count on Frank to send me messages of encouragement, update me on his horses or correct one of my numerous errors with a note of humor that always brightened my day. I could go on, but I just can't, I'm still so sad. Yep, there was just something about Frank.

Here is what Beth wrote:

When I opened the *Mid-Atlantic* [Thoroughbred] magazine to

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Breeding News

Member Art Bauer reports that his mare She's Stylish (Posse out of Final Style, by Smart Style), had a filly by Central Banker. The New York-bred foal is pictured here with her dam at age two months. She is already sold, and the new owner hopes to race her. We'll be sure to follow her.

In addition, member Ken Orchard of Jet M Stables reports that Rosie P (Girolamo out of Prime Jewel, by The Prime Minister), a home-bred mare that his stable also raced but was eventually claimed, is home. They were able to get her back and breed her to Freud. She is carrying a New York-bred foal. Ken promised pictures. Rosie P was our 2018 Female Champion Allowance Horse.



Racing Recap

Descent (Honor Code—Stayclassy—sandiego, by Rockport Harbor), a dark bay 3-year-old colt bred by Nancy Shuford, broke his maiden May 24 at Lone Star Park going 1 mile on a muddy, sealed track. Although last of 11 to leave the gate, he settled into a stalking position by the first turn and saved ground around the bend. On the far turn, he rallied while angling from two to four wide. Obtaining the lead outside the three-sixteenth pole, he was urged in the upper stretch and drew away to win by 6¼ lengths.

Tench (Majesticperfection—Biorra, by Smoke Glacken) owned by Caroline Cooper—Check Racing, broke his maiden at Tampa Bay going 6½ furlongs on a fast track June 3. The 4-year-old bay gelding's first race after an eight-month layoff, he broke alertly, first out the gate, set the pace in hand, created a comfortable 2½ length lead in the backstretch and with

right-handed urging in mid-stretch defeated his rivals by 2¼ lengths.

Hot Springs (Uncle Mo—Magical Victory, by Victory Gallop), owned by Bill and Carrington Price—Carrington Holdings, is a 5-year-old bay gelding who broke his maiden first time out over hurdles June 13 going 2½ miles at Glenwood Park at Middleburg. Rated nicely in sixth position over the first two jumps, he moved up to third at the final jump and accelerated in deep stretch to win by a length.

Nancy Littlebit (NC) (Chelsey Cat—Carol's Littlebit, by Above Normal), bred by Nancy Shuford, won at Camarero Race-track June 18 going a mile on a fast track. The 5-year-old mare stalked the pace until the stretch when she came under a drive to grab the lead and win by 2¼ lengths.

Catauga County (Violence—Keep It a Secret, by Thunder Gulch) won at Charles



Caroline Cooper's Tench broke his maiden at Tampa Bay Downs June 6.



Nancy Shuford-bred Catauga County won at Charles Town June 20.

Town June 20 going 7 furlongs on a sloppy, sealed track. Raced off the pace while going three-wide through the far turn, the 5-year-old gelding bred by Nancy Shuford advanced position in the stretch to gain the lead in the final strides and win by a neck.

President's Message *continued*

our association page this month, I couldn't help but think how incredibly appropriate that it featured a picture of Navy Armed Guard in his last win. Indeed, it seemed a fitting final tribute to one of his owners, Frank Coniglio, who lost his fight with cancer just a few short days after.

Frank loved the ponies, and everything involved with racing as much as anyone I've ever known. He was the best partner a person could have had, and I have fond memories of a filly I bred named Special Cheers that Frank bought into and who then went on to give us both our first stakes win! We shared more victories after that but no other was quite as sweet!

Trust me, Frank will be missed—by me and all who knew him. We all, and our sport, have lost a great friend.

I have a feeling Frank had a lot of great friends.

/Rebecca Montaldo

Hitting the Board

May 24—June 25

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
24-May	Descent	Lone Star	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
28-May	And Seek	Churchill Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	3rd
30-May	Created Special	Laurel Park	Owned by K. Rand; Bred by Beth Muirhead	unplaced
3-Jun	Tench	Tampa Bay Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper and partners	WINNER!
6-Jun	Allegheny Dbl Lime	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	2nd
11-Jun	And Seek	Churchill Downs	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	2nd
18-Jun	Dionysus' Chalice	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	unplaced
13-Jun	Hot Springs	Glenwood Park At Middleburg (Jumps)	Owned by Bill & Carrington Price	WINNER!
18-Jun	Nancy Littlebit	Camarero Race Track	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
20-Jun	Catauga County	Charles Town	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
20-Jun	Texas Wedge	Belmont Park Jaipur G1 Stakes	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
21-Jun	Royal Wedding	Woodbine	Owned by Bill Thompson-Maple Leaf Farm	3rd

GRADE 3 OHIO DERBY—FROM CLAIM TO FAME FOR “THE KING OF COOL”

With the reshuffling of the Kentucky Derby-G1, Thistledown inherited a Derby points race in the Grade 3, \$500,000 Ohio Derby this year. The chance for Derby points and a share of Ohio’s highest purse attracted an aspiring field of 13 starters for the 1½ mile race. Included in the large group was last season’s 2-year-old champion Storm the Court. He had yet to repeat his form as a 3-year-old and trainer Peter Eurton enjoyed his rare visit to Thistledown when he captured this race in 2018 with Core Beliefs.

The upset winner was named in part after a beloved Ohioan, Dino Crocetti, who grew up in Steubenville. Known nationally as “The King of Cool” the son of Italian immigrants moved west and changed his name to Dean Martin. . . and the legend began. His equine namesake is Dean Martini and in his second start after moving to a new barn, the gelding became a graded stakes winner. Originally sold at the Keeneland September sale for \$220,000, Dean Martini ran exclusively in maiden special weight races at five different tracks from Kentucky to California.



Ricardo Mejias celebrates an Ohio Derby victory astride Dean Martini.

Finally dropped into a \$50,000 maiden claimer at Churchill Downs in May in his eighth start by trainer Brad Cox, he won in hand, but was claimed by the keen-eyed Tom Amoss for owner Raise the BAR Racing LLC. Amoss had the son of Cairo Prince gelded and he put in a strong second-place finish in his next outing at Churchill Downs less than a month later. With no rider named at the time of the Ohio Derby entry, Ricardo Mejias got the call and Dean Martini drew the inside post.

Mejias rode a perfect race. Breaking well astride the 14-1 shot, he kept him with the pacesetters to prevent being surrounded by the calvary of competitors, saved ground along the rail and let his mount drop back to fifth at the midpoint of the race. Holding his position, he quickly slipped past the leaders and was on top by 3 lengths in midstretch. Storm the Court, with blinkers off, launched a solid rally, but South Bend finished stronger in the final 40 yards. Dean Martini held sway by three-quarters of a length, with South Bend 2 lengths in front of third-place Storm the Court.

With nine defections from the leaderboard for the Kentucky Derby already, Dean Martini moved to the 20th position according to the points system after his win. It will be interesting to see what path Tom Amoss takes with the new stable addition to get into the starting gate on the first Saturday in September. He will be hoping that minutes after hearing “My Old Kentucky Home,” he will be singing with Raise the BAR Racing “Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime.”

CHIEF RANDEL PULLS OFF UPSET IN \$75,000 DANIEL STEARNS CLEVELAND GOLD CUP

It’s that time of the season when horses are asked to stretch their abilities from sprints to distances. Last year’s top 2-year-old male Liberate had already proven he could stretch out when he captured the \$150,000 Best of Ohio Juvenile to cap off his four-win season with three stakes victories. In his first start in Ohio this year, he defeated older open company at 5½ furlongs. The \$226,360-earner was

backed down to 2-to-5 favoritism in the field of seven who would travel 1½ miles in the Cleveland Gold Cup for 3-year-olds.

As expected, Liberate went right to the front under Gerardo Corrales, but two-time stakes winner Betchaiwill and jockey John McKee were not about to let him dictate the pace and made a quick move to take a short lead after the first



Agustin Bracho is all smiles after Chief Randel's upset win.

turn and set the pace to the far turn. Liberate drew on even terms into the stretch and it looked like it would be a two-horse run to the finish.

Chief Randel, who had settled in behind the top two, made a determined move three-wide in the lane to edge to the front and eventually pull away at the wire by $2\frac{3}{4}$ lengths. Liberate held second

by $7\frac{1}{2}$ lengths over Betchaiwill. The winner travelled the distance in 1:54.22. The gray colt was dismissed at odds of 23-1 and returned \$49.80 to win.

Agustin Bracho was aboard Chief Randel for the race, but there was an anxious moment in the gate as he was bucked off prior to the start. For trainer Jose A. Romero, it was his second win of the year.

Chief Randel was bred in Ohio by Harry D. Waite and Ronald C. Waite, and runs for Harry Waite. He is by Fiber Sonde out of She Could Be Good, by Daylight Savings. Fiber Sonde is an unraced graded stakes sire by Unbridled's Song who stands in West Virginia. The win in the Gold Cup pushed Chief Randel's earnings to \$94,500.

ESPLANANDE EMULATES HER BIG BROTHER IN THE \$75,000 HOOVER STAKES

Almost a year to the day, Esplanande duplicated the performance of her half-brother Liberate in the $5\frac{1}{2}$ -furlong Hoover Stakes at Belterra Park, with a very similar running style and a nearly exact final time. Liberate went on to become Ohio's top 2-year-old male of 2019 with four wins in five starts, three in stakes, while racking up earnings of \$206,250. Each broke their maiden versus open company in their debut and went wire-to-wire in the Hoover in their second start. Both are trained by Tim Hamm, bred by the partnership of WinStar Farm LLC and Blazing Meadows Farm LLC, and owned by the breeders with Michael Lewis.

While Esplanande was a filly against the boys, it made no difference when the gates flew open. With Gerardo Corrales on her back, she willingly went to the lead and established a comfortable 1-length margin throughout. When Up-



The filly Esplanande pulls away from Uptown and King B B in the Hoover.

town and King B B launched their run at the furlong marker, Corrales roused Esplanande, who responded on command and drew away by $2\frac{1}{4}$ lengths. "Being in the 1-hole we wanted to get out of there and she had no problem," said Corrales. "I rode her in her first race and I knew I was sitting on a good horse. Into the stretch I

had a good feeling and was 100 percent sure she would respond when called upon."

Hamm, who has increased his presence at Belterra Park this year by filling 36 stalls, was very confident in his filly. "We had about 75 horses in training at our Ocala facility and she was so laid back in her training she did everything right. I'd have to rank her in the top five." The daughter of Daredevil out of the winning Dixie Union mare Southern Silence stopped the timer in 1:05.31 (Liberate's time was 1:05.44). Uptown held off King B B by a half length for the minor placings.

We haven't seen the last of this family on the Ohio racing scene. Southern Silence has a yearling colt by Speightster, a weanling filly by Commissioner and is currently in foal to Preakness and Santa Anita Derby winner and Kentucky Derby runner-up Exaggerator. Expect this family to have an impact in the Buckeye State for years to come.

TING TANG NIPS HER STABLEMATE AT THE WIRE IN GRASSY \$75,000 CINCINNATION STAKES



Ting Tang (inside) catches stablemate Edge of Night in the final stride.

At this time of the season, when 3-year-olds take to the turf, it's usually a first-time experience—as it was for the entire 10-filly field in the $1\frac{1}{16}$ -mile Cincinnatian for accredited fillies at Belterra Park. As it turned out, trainer Robert Gorham and Mast Thoroughbreds found out they have two runners who can handle the greensward.

Edge of Night, the poster girl for the Ohio Mixed Sale, appeared the stronger half of the duo. The \$6,500 sale purchase came into the race with a resume that listed two stakes victories and a stakes second

for the highest earnings in the field of \$149,640.

Stablemate Ting Tang came into the race sporting a record of 9-2-0-2 for earnings of \$48,316. She ran against Edge of Night unsuccessfully three times last season and was dismissed in the wagering at 15-1. True Light (the 2018 Ohio Mixed Sale sales topper at \$17,500) was made the second choice behind Edge of Night, and the Mike Rone trained and owned filly seems to relish the turf footing as she sped to the front and held the lead into the stretch. Her closest pursuer was Edge

of Night with Christian Pilares, who got by her with good energy and appeared heading to victory—but don't pop that champagne cork yet as Ting Tang got loose after having to steady inside on the far turn.

The final yards of the race turned into a "battle royale" between the stablemates and it appeared Edge of Night would last, but after examination of the photo finish, in the final stride Gerardo Corrales and Ting Tang got the head bob by a nose. It was $3\frac{3}{4}$ lengths back to Lovely Lady Linda, who got a neck decision for the third

spot over Cristalinda. The dueling duo ran the distance in 1:43.79. The win pushed Ting Tang's earnings to \$93,316 and the \$15,000 second prize pushed Edge of Night's bankroll to \$164,640, not a bad return on investment.

Ting Tang was bred by Bob Gorham and Mast Thoroughbreds, sired by their stallion City Weekend out of Tangueray Miss, so not only do they collect the \$45,000 winner's share, but the stallion and broodmare awards as well.

After the race Gorham stated, "City Weekend has a limited reputation for sir-

ing grass runners, but I am familiar with the mare from her Michigan days and she does have turf credentials.

"Edge of Night ran a solid race, but I think she's better on the dirt at slightly shorter distances."

It is early in the season, so we will have to watch where these stablemates display their talents next. We DO know that the 2020 Ohio Mixed Sale is Oct. 15 at the Delaware County Fair and there may be more \$6,500 bargains going under the gavel.

FIELD GETS "DRILLED" IN PETRO

Mast Thoroughbreds 2018 2-year-old Filly Champion Drillit looked like her old self as she pulled away by 12 lengths in a hand ride to capture the \$75,000 J. William Petro Memorial Handicap at Thistledown June 18.

Last season the Bob Gorham trainee won only one race, her season finale in the \$75,000 First Lady at Mahoning Valley, preceded by a series of close calls and placings in the Queen City Oaks and Tomboy Stakes so she still bankrolled \$92,610 on the year. Now 4, she appears to have grown into her own.

Outside of her trainer, no one knows her better than jockey T.D. Houghton, who has been in the saddle for every one of her lifetime starts. "At 2 she was one of the classiest horses I had been around. Young horses will fool around a lot in their training, but she just went about her business, she was so nice," said Houghton.

"She was narrow and still pretty little, but she could run. As a 3-year-old she didn't fill out as much and I figured she was just going to stay on the small side."

Mother Nature and Father Time worked their influence over the winter and when Houghton first saw her this season it was a pleasant surprise. "You could see it in her stall—she looks like a big horse now. She's fully developed, easily bigger this year than last. She came right out of there in the stakes and I had to reel her in a bit. I didn't want to use too much of her as she was going long for the first time and she relaxed and stayed off the top two."

Houghton found himself on the lead as they rounded the turn. "She switched to her left lead and went to another gear—I still didn't want her to go yet due to the distance. She was going strong and when I uncocked my stick she took off. I looked back for Leona [even-money fa-



JEFF ZAMACKO

Drillit is back in form for the 2020 season.

vorite Leona's Reward] outside and inside and no one was there so I just let her go on her own." Leona's Reward was second, with 3-year-old Moonlit Mission another 3 lengths back in third. The final time for the $1\frac{1}{16}$ miles was 1:47.60

Bred in Ohio by Eric Heyman, Drillit is by Drill out of Way to Fly, by Bowman's Band. The chestnut filly now sports a record of 18-6-5-5 for earnings of \$339,710. Her sire Drill previously stood in Florida, but was moved to Ohio this year and stands at Raimonde Farms in Wooster.

RADOSEVICH RUNNERS RUN 1-2-3 IN \$75,000 GEORGE LEWIS MEMORIAL

A field of eight Accredited Ohio Breds went to post in the \$75,000 George Lewis Memorial Stakes at Thistledown two races following the Petro. A look at the field shows that it pays to have an Accredited-Bred, with seven of the eight having earnings over \$136,000, topped by Mobil Solution's \$420,520. Over half of the field would be stretching out in distance as they last raced at 6 furlongs in the Mike Rowland Memorial. The Lewis is $1\frac{1}{16}$ miles.

When the gates opened, Pat's Karma was bumped by Direct Deceit and he responded by taking a quick lead over that rival. Mobil Solution, Funnel Cake and Verissimo stayed very close to the top two and the entire field, with the exception of longshot Master Legionaire who trailed throughout, stayed tightly bunched all the way down the backstretch.

Into the turn, Pat's Karma relinquished the lead to the favorite Mobil Solution.



JEFF ZAMACKO

Accredited-bred Mobil Solution pushed his earnings to \$465,520.

Into the stretch, Mobil Solution stretched the lead to 2 lengths and a few right-hand taps by Luis Rivera kept the 5-year-old gelding clear by 2½ lengths. Verissimo caught Pat's Karma in the final furlong. The top three are all conditioned

by Jeff Radosevich. Mobil Solution, who came up a half length short of winning the race last year, pushed his career earnings to \$465,520.

Owned by Gerald Silver, Mobil Solution was bred by Mapleton Thorough-

bred Farm. He is a son of Mapleton stallion Mobil out of Perfect Solution, by Seeking the Gold, and now has a career record of 26-8-8-6.

Fred A. "Butch" Nemann, prominent Ohio breeder and leader, succumbs

Fred "Butch" A. Nemann Jr., 80, of New Richmond, passed away June 8 at his home. Fred was president and owner of Fred A. Nemann Company (heavy highway contractor) since 1960 and owner of Rocky Valley Ranch race horse training center.

Rocky Valley Ranch is a Thoroughbred horse farm located in Clermont County, east of Cincinnati. Nemann was an owner, breeder and trainer of horses for over 60 years. During the peak years of Rocky Valley, he and his wife, Kris, had 63 horses, including 18 broodmares and two stallions. He believed strongly in the Ohio program and all their mares foaled in Ohio.

Kris moved through the ranks from exercising, jockey agent, assistant trainer to training. In a rare racing/breeding phenome-



"Butch" and Kris Nemann. Photo: John C. Engelhardt

non, Kris won the training title at River Downs—with every horse being bred by Rocky Valley Ranch. The farm was represented by Ohio Champions Sandi's Silverhope and Acts Like a King and stakes winners Part the Waters, Lipstick 'n Lace, Call It the Blues and Best of Ohio winner Kara's Rockin Role.

Butch served an important role in helping the backstretch of River Downs being restored after the flood of 1997. He volunteered and brought in his much needed equipment and staff to take on the monumental clean-up operation that allowed horsemen to ship in for the meet on time for the start. Butch served on the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Board (OTBO) and on the Board of Directors for the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA).

He is survived by his loving wife Kris, beloved children Butch (Terri) Nemann, Tim (Cheryl) Nemann, and Sandi (Billy) Timler and stepchildren Nathan Solomon, Gina Solomon and Jared (Mandy) Solomon.



The Annual Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Mixed Sale

Thursday, October 15
Delaware County Fairgrounds
Coliseum and Barn Area

**Featuring: Yearlings, 2-Year-Olds,
Weanlings And Broodmares**

Horses available for viewing starting on
Wednesday, October 14
Sale begins 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 15

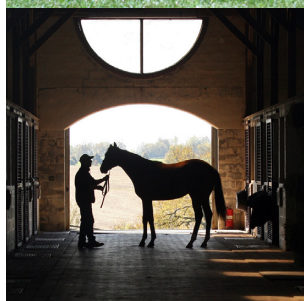
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Website: www.otbo.com

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PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
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Dollinger grows her role in the Thoroughbred industry

by Nikki Sherman

With most of the world quarantined at home, there is plenty of time for reminiscing. Certainly one of the most intriguing memories for horsemen is how each and every one of us became a member of the Thoroughbred industry. Some have been members for generations, such as the Lymans of Maui Meadow Farm in West Chester, Pa. And then there are the newest members of the game—like 21-year-old Claudia Dollinger.

Although a newcomer to the Thoroughbred industry, she is a lifelong horsewoman. She began taking riding lessons at just 6 years old, was mucking stalls by 12 (in exchange for lessons) and was soon showing hunters with trainer Jody Vesty.

"Jody was the first person to introduce me to breeding," noted Dollinger. "She bred a lot of Welsh/TB crosses and I was able to help start them when they were old enough." She proudly purchased her first pony in 2014 for \$500 and switched to a new discipline and trainer. It was a success: in training under Hugh Cann, Dollinger qualified for both the 2015 Devon Horse Show and Pony Finals in show jumping. Connections in the show world helped her find a job in the equine industry.

She had grown up riding alongside Logan Charlton, daughter of Vintage Thoroughbreds' David Charlton. When it was time for Dollinger to officially enter the workforce, Charlton's wife told her to come on out to their farm. She began working on the weekends and slowly added more weekdays until she was a full-time employee. "The racing world is a lot different than the world I was used to. It was much more intimidating at first," she admitted. "But I feel that the racing world is where I prefer to be. There are so many awesome people in the Thoroughbred world that have really helped me grow."

The barn manager position became available in the spring of 2018 and Dollinger jumped at the opportunity. She was thrilled to gain even more



experience with the group of horses—which included broodmares, yearlings and even racehorses undergoing rehabilitation. "I was so lucky and excited to take the job because it was my dream to work with horses every day," she said. "It was an incredible amount of responsibility and I am so thankful that David trusted me to take care of his horses."

An even bigger opportunity arose when Charlton's lease on the farm ended this past December. Dollinger decided to take a big chance of her own going into the new year—she now leases the property herself while also working full time as a customer service representative and accountant. At first the workload was a challenge, but she says that she has started falling into a rhythm, especially with the help of her boyfriend Alex Cavan. "He wasn't into horses until he started dating me," she said with a laugh. "He works at an auto body shop and helps with the

horses on the side. He is slowly learning to ride but prefers to just cuddle the horses.”

Before Charlton left, he offered a special deal to Dollinger. One of his broodmares was in foal to Hoppertunity. Once the mare gave birth, the foal would belong to him but Dollinger would be the new owner of the mare Judiane's Jubilee (by Congaree and nicknamed “JJ”). That fateful day finally occurred March 22, nearly a month after JJ's due date and causing Dollinger to lose plenty of sleep. “Oh my gosh, delivering for the first time was amazing and terrifying at the same time,” she said. “I went out to check on JJ around 8:00 in the morning and her water broke right as I walked up to her. It only took eight minutes before the foal came out. I immediately fell in love with the filly who I call Tallulah. It also gave me a huge appreciation for JJ. Now I can't wait to do it again next year!” Next year she will hopefully bring her first three official homebreds into the world.

Dollinger was gifted a second broodmare named Champagne Rhythm (by Eddington), who was to be bred to Hoppertunity. Judiane's Jubilee was also going back to Hoppertunity. A third mare, Magnawave, was sent to a show jumping stallion named Carasca Z.

Longtime breeder Justine Howell gave Champagne Rhythm to her this year. The two met when Dollinger still had her first pony and Howell allowed her to use the indoor arena during the winter. “[She] is a huge inspiration to me,” Dollinger said. “She lives down the road from me and has a wonderful breeding facility.

She has taught me a lot about getting into the breeding world and is always teaching me more.”

Dollinger also credits Curtis Beale “Woodberry” Payne as a major role model. Payne owns Ingleside Training Center in Virginia, which is located on the historic grounds of Montpelier, the home of President James Madison. “He was a hunter/jumper rider before being a race trainer and he does a wonderful job with the horses. He applies a lot of the basics from the hunter way of riding when he trains.”

Despite making the big change into breeding and racing, she still rides when time permits. Her personal riding horse, a Hanoverian mare named Kassandra, is currently on lease with a friend. However, she already has a new project horse—a retired Thoroughbred named Messy Marie. She hopes to compete with the mare in the Thoroughbred Makeover at the Kentucky Horse Park in both the show jumping and hunter/jumper divisions.

She may be new to the industry, but Dollinger is well aware of the current situation in Pennsylvania. Without even being asked about the political climate, she said that she very much hopes Governor Tom Wolf steers clear of his earlier plan to divert funding from the horse racing industry. “It is incredible to think about how many people are involved and employed through the Thoroughbreds in Pennsylvania. From farriers to feed mills to breeders and trainers... It would crush a lot of my future plans and dreams with the industry.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

I'm proud to announce that \$41,625 in breeder grants ranging from \$375 to \$1,500 were sent out in early July to help needy members with feed and veterinary bills. Prominent breeders like Chuck Zacney and Glenn Bennett stepped up to the plate with generous donations to the cause. Their donations, along with matching funds from the PHBA, made the grant program possible. We'd like to again thank them for their generosity!

PA Day at the Races will be held on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at Parx Racing with over a half-million in purses! The card will feature five PA-Bred Stakes and as usual the balance will consist of PA Restricted Races. With the threat of the spread of Covid-19,



Contact Information:

State Horse Racing Commission

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Parx Racing

Bensalem, PA • 215-639-9000

Hollywood Casino at

Penn National Race Course

Grantville, PA • 717-469-2211

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Erie, PA • 866-374-3386

Pennsylvania HBPA

Grantville, PA • 717-469-2970

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Bensalem, PA • 215-638-2012



THE PA-BRED PREMIUM EARN MORE! JOIN THE PHBA

Whether you are currently a breeder or an owner, or if you are just considering getting involved in this exciting industry, there are many reasons to join the PHBA. The PHBA is devoted to those involved in Pennsylvania's Thoroughbred breeding industry. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1948, we provide a number of services to members, including informational assistance, educational opportunities and a variety of social events.

The goal of the organization is to advocate on behalf of the state's breeding industry. We are mandated by statute as administrator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Fund program, and as official registrar of the Pennsylvania-Bred roster of eligible program participants.

Working with industry leaders over the years, PHBA has achieved several goals that have brought reform and benefits to breeders, owners, racetracks and the public. The PHBA is vital to everyone involved in breeding throughout Pennsylvania. Your support and participation can help Pennsylvania's breeding industry continue to grow and prosper.

there will be no luncheon. The ability of owners and their guests to attend and even be in the paddock or winner's circle will depend on protocols in place at that time. Please note that late nominations for the stakes will close Aug. 24 and may be made by contacting the Parx Racing office. Good luck and Go Pa!!



2020 Pennsylvania-Bred Stakes Schedule

We are happy to say that with the help of PARX Racing and the PTHA we will be holding five Stakes on PA Day at the Races for purses of \$80,000 each. We will also be running the Nursery in December and most probably the Shamrock Rose in November. These races will be black type! With the uncertainty of a consistent revenue stream, it is too early to commit to any other Stakes at this time but please rest assured, that if it is at all possible, we will add to them going forward.

PHBA Stakes Committee

PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES	PARX RACING	\$80,000 Banjo Picker Sprint Stakes 3 & up, 6 furlongs	\$80,000 Marshall Jenney Handicap 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf
	Monday September 7	\$80,000 Mrs. Penny Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles, turf	\$80,000 Storm Cat Stakes 3 & up, 1 ¹ / ₁₆ miles
	Late nominations: August 24	\$80,000 Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	
PENN NATIONAL	Wednesday November 25	\$80,000 Shamrock Rose Stakes 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
PARX RACING	Saturday December 5	\$80,000 Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes 2YO, 7 furlongs	

PENNSYLVANIA's DAY *at the* RACES



PA Day will be held on Labor Day, Monday September 7th at PARX Racing with over a half million in purses! The card will feature five PA-Bred Stakes and as usual the balance will consist of Pa Restricted Races. With the threat of the spread of Covid-19, there will be no luncheon. The ability of owners and their guests to attend and even be in the paddock or winner's circle will depend on protocols in place at that time.

Cancellation of the day was an option but we realized that many of our PA-Bred breeders and owners look to this day as a chance to showcase their horses and earn black type. With the help of PARX Racing and the PTHA, they'll still have that chance. Please note that early nominations for the Stakes will close on July 27th and may be made by contacting the PARX racing office. Good luck and Go Pa!!

Brian Sanfratello

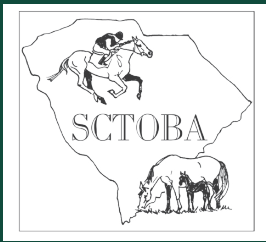


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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Aiken's Hall of Fame wins award for third time

The Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum has been named the Carolinas' Best Equestrian Attraction for 2020. This is the third time the Museum has received this honor from Official Best of America, a travel award presenter and producer of television shows and videos. The Hall of Fame previously won this honor in 2012 and 2016. Lisa Hall has worked tirelessly to make the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum what it is today.

A video of the Museum will be on various platforms including Roku, Hulu, Amazon Fire and Pluto TV. The video will also be on sale at the Museum.

The mission statement for Official Best of America is to show "our followers and viewers the best experiences across America."



BARRY BORNSTEIN

Sales Return

The 2-year-old in training sales finally got going again with horse trading taking place at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company in Florida June 9-12. While the buyback rate was higher than usual, the pinhook operations were able to move horses and put money in the bank for the upcoming yearling sales.

While South Carolina has a stronger presence at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Sale each year, Aiken's Cary Frommer was the consignor of three colts and two fillies who sold for a total of \$1,090,000.

Frommer sold two colts by Twirling Candy and one by Speightster. Two fillies sold, by Outwork and Liam's Map, the latter topping her consignment for \$700,000 and equaling the second highest price for a filly in the Ocala sale.

Donna Freyer honored as SheHero

SheHero is a website that recognizes unsung female heroes in the horse racing world. Every few weeks, Maggie Kimmitt and Anita Motion feature a woman who works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to make the horse racing world a better place for horses and people. On June 1, South Carolina's own Donna Freyer was featured.

Donna has served for many years as a Vice President of the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. For several years, SCTOBA sponsored 2-year-old stakes races for horses that trained at least 90 days in our state. In recognition of Donna's efforts to promote the sport, the fillies' division was named the Donna Freyer Stakes in her honor.

She cares for horses in training and those retired. Donna and Kip Elser started the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation in South Carolina.

In 2013 Donna put together a partnership called Fast Women. This allowed women to get introduced to the sport and involved as owners.

This is recognition Donna Freyer richly deserves.



SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	Training Center	Date	Track	Type of Race
Flat Awesome Jenny	Elloree Training Center	6/20/20	Delaware Park	Allowance
Malartach	Elloree Training Center	6/20/20	Louisiana Downs	Maiden claiming
Perfectcombination	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/20/20	Gulfstream Park	Maiden claiming
Tel Aviv	Shuler Stables	6/20/20	Charles Town	Starter allowance
A King's Ransom	McCutchen Training Center	6/19/20	Belterra Park	Claiming
Archumybaby	Elloree Training Center	6/19/20	Belmont Park	Claiming
Market Alert	Custom Care - Donna Freyer	6/19/20	Belmont Park	Maiden special weight
Black Kettle	McCutchen Training Center	6/17/20	Belmont Park	Allowance
Dreams Untold	Rentz Training Center	6/17/20	Delaware Park	Allowance
Much Class	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/17/20	Louisiana Downs	Claiming
Succotash	Rentz Training Center	6/17/20	Thistledown	Maiden special weight
Lucky Lookin	McCutchen Training Center	6/16/20	Indiana Grand	Claiming
Sentimentaljourney	Elloree Training Center	6/15/20	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Tapindeed	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/15/20	Fair Meadows	Claiming
Uncail	Elloree Training Center	6/15/20	Fair Meadows	Claiming
Clifton Park	Elloree Training Center	6/14/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden claiming
Lele	Elloree Training Center	6/14/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden claiming
Lion of the Sea	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/14/20	Woodbine	Maiden special weight
Art Collector	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/13/20	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Dance Rhythms	Elloree Training Center	6/13/20	Churchill Downs	Claiming
Hot Springs	Arch Kingsley	6/13/20	Middleburg	Maiden special weight
Irish Hokie	Elloree Training Center	6/13/20	Louisiana Downs	Maiden special weight
Kitten's Cat	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/13/20	Belmont Park	Claiming
Lucky Penguin	Shuler Stables	6/13/20	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Quality Stones	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/13/20	Belmont Park	Allowance
Pataz	Elloree Training Center	6/12/20	Laurel Park	Claiming
Wegetsdamunnys	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/12/20	Belmont Park	Allowance
A King's Ransom	McCutchen Training Center	6/11/20	Belterra Park	Claiming
Hotfoot	Aiken - Legacy Stable	6/11/20	Canterbury Park	Claiming
Rule Yourself	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/10/20	Gulfstream Park	Claiming
She's Got Moxy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/9/20	Fair Meadows	Claiming
Mr. Diffley	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/7/20	Woodbine	Maiden special weight
Amelia Bedelia	Shuler Stables	6/6/20	Charles Town	Allowance
Another Time	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/6/20	Woodbine	Allowance
Lil Watty	Shuler Stables	6/6/20	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Pinson	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/6/20	Churchill Downs	Claiming
Unfading Beauty	Elloree Training Center	6/6/20	Churchill Downs	Claiming
Hyndford	Elloree Training Center	6/5/20	Belterra Park	Claiming
Jeffjohn'sthundr	Kirkwood Stables	6/5/20	Golden Gate	Allowance
Lost Ticket	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/5/20	Belmont Park	Allowance
Outofthepark	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/5/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
A King's Ransom	McCutchen Training Center	6/4/20	Belterra Park	Maiden claiming
Big Boy Mo	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/4/20	Belmont Park	Maiden claiming
Hunnybunnerdini	Custom Care - Donna Freyer	6/4/20	Belmont Park	Maiden special weight
Meetme At d'Street	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/4/20	Belterra Park	Claiming
Rigged Up	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/4/20	Thistledown	Maiden special weight
Final Form	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/3/20	Lone Star Park	Allowance
Smile Bryan	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/3/20	Belmont Park	Starter allowance
Money Fromheaven	Elloree Training Center	6/1/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Coltonator	Elloree Training Center	5/31/20	Churchill Downs	Claiming
Make the Rules	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/31/20	Mountaineer Park	Claiming
Toy	Aiken - Cary Frommer	5/31/20	Laurel Park	Allowance
Zanesville	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/31/20	Churchill Downs	Claiming
Brittle and Yoo	Rentz Training Center	5/30/20	Churchill Downs	Maiden claiming
Queen of Cause	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/30/20	Laurel Park	Claiming
YLikedis	Kirkwood Stables	5/30/20	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Cloud Charmer	Custom Care - Donna Freyer	5/29/20	Tampa Bay Downs	Handicap
Elegant Gal	Shuler Stables	5/29/20	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Gio Dude	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/29/20	Charles Town	Claiming
Dubby Dubbie	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/27/20	Tampa Bay Downs	Claiming
Remember the Maine	Elloree Training Center	5/23/20	Gulfstream Park	Claiming
Burren Rocks	Webb Carroll Training Center	5/21/20	Charles Town	Maiden claiming



VIRGINIA

Colonial Downs Summer Meet Scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays With Limited Spectators

The thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs in New Kent kicks off July 27 and continues thru September 2 with racing every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 5:30 PM. All races during the meet will be televised on the TVG Network.

Under Covid-related conditions established in Virginia's Phase 3 reopening plan, up to 1000 spectators can be admitted to the outdoor areas of the grandstand and the track apron each race night. All guests will receive temperature checks upon arrival at the facility and a 6-foot social distancing policy will be enforced. Guests are required to wear masks indoors and encouraged outdoors.

Response from horsemen for the 2020 meet has been especially strong nationwide, with 90 stall applications for more than 800 stalls received. Daily purse distribution will be approximately \$340,000 per program. Allison DeLuca is the Racing Secretary and can be reached at allisondeluca@yahoo.com.

The 18th running of the \$200,000 (G3) Virginia Derby on Tuesday September 1 highlights the season. A strong five stakes under card, headlined by the Virginia Oaks, will complement Derby night's lineup.

A total of eight stakes for Virginia-bred/sired horses will take place over two programs. The Camptown, Nellie Mae Cox and Edward P. Evans will be contested July 29 while the M. Tyson Gilpin, Brookmeade, Bert Allen, Jamestown and Punch Line will be held on closing night.

A total of 18 overnight races have been dedicated as Virginia restricted, which are open to horses that are either Virginia-bred, sired or certified. Additionally, a four pack of \$40,000 restricted handicaps are scheduled — the Van Clief, Miss Oceana, William M. Backer, and Quarter Path Road. A pair of \$40,000 restricted stakes — the White Oak Farms and Hansel — complete the program.

Popular owner and trainer incentives are back. This year, each owner will receive \$800 per start --- either through purse money earned or via a starter's bonus --- and trainers will receive \$250 for each time they start a horse. In addition, Colonial Downs and the Virginia HBPA will each pledge a \$15 donation per starter to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA).



Marsha Hudgins Named Newest Virginia Racing Commissioner

Marsha Hudgins, owner and CEO of Hudgins Contracting Corporation in Hampton, Virginia, has been appointed newest Commissioner on the five person Virginia Racing Commission (VRC), joining Chairman D.G. Van Clief Jr., Vice-Chairman Stuart Siegel, J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr., and Stephanie Nixon.

Hudgins has been a longtime owner and breeder of sport horses like hunters and jumpers. Her horse farm is in Suffolk and she has participated in many equine shows and competitions over the years. She went to college for Physical Therapy and as a result, has more than a passive understanding of injuries, treatments, medications and breakdowns. She has practiced for 35 years.

Hudgins also earned a Masters of Business Administration from Old Dominion University. She has spent almost thirty years consulting with small business start-ups as well as large corporate entities across the region in targeting and managing growth opportunities.

Hudgins originally questioned whether she had the qualifications necessary to serve on the

Commission board but after initially declining consideration, she began having conversations with people in the industry.

"I learned the upcoming years would be pivotal for racing in Virginia with historical racing, OTBs, the return of Colonial Downs and casinos. I started thinking that someone who is behind the industry, has business experience elsewhere and understands how business can impact the state should have their voice heard."

Hudgins ended up throwing her hat in the ring, was appointed by the Governor on May 19 and attended her first VRC meeting as a Commissioner on June 25.

At her first Racing Commission meeting, Hudgins witnessed firsthand how industry stakeholders can band together. She came away impressed. "In my business, you need to work in a collaborative way with other groups to have a common goal in which we all share. That's what I saw at the meeting. I was amazed. It bodes well for the future of our industry. I see horse racing as a driving economic force in Virginia because it is our heritage. It goes back to the very beginning here."

Gold Cup & Middleburg Steeplechase Meets Held Without Spectators; Colonial to Host Jump Races on Mondays

Two Virginia steeplechase meets were held in June, both without fans and in one case, without wagering. The 95th running of the Virginia Gold Cup Races was held June 27 at Great Meadow and \$220,000 in purse monies were distributed over ten races. Normally a pari-mutuel event, the Gold Cup had originally been slated for May 2.



Colonial Downs can allow up to 1,000 fans to attend the races each day this summer. Photo provided by VEA.



The Warrenton Horse Show Grounds provide a nice setting for the Breeders Futurity. Photo provided by VEA.

The 100th running of the Middleburg Spring Races took place at Glenwood Park on June 13, exactly two months after its original scheduled date of April 13. Eleven races were contested including the featured \$50,000 Temple Gwathmey. In all, \$200,000 in purse monies were distributed.

Both events were streamed live and full replays have been archived at nationalsteeplechase.com.

Colonial Downs will offer a strong program of jump racing on Mondays during its six-week season. At least one maiden hurdle will be presented each week and four ratings handicaps are scheduled. The meet's jump-racing season concludes with the Randolph Rouse Stakes for fillies and mares on August 31.

Looking ahead, Virginia's fall race schedule includes the Foxfield Fall Races on October 4, the Middleburg Fall Races on October 10, the International Gold Cup Races on October 24 and the Montpelier Hunt Races on November 7.

Virginia Breeders Yearling Futurity Scheduled for September 9

The annual 2020 Virginia Breeders Yearling Futurity is scheduled for Wednesday September 9 at the Warrenton Horse Show Grounds from 9 AM - 1 PM. A total of \$22,500 in awards will be on the line. Even though Labor Day weekend's Warrenton Horse Show has been cancelled, the Futurity is still a go. The event is sponsored by the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and Virginia Breeders Fund.

The judge for this year's competition is Rick Abbott, a former longtime Pennsylvania bloodstock agent who along with his wife Dixie, had their own sales consignment business, Charlton Bloodstock. Among the horses bred, raised and/or sold by Charlton over the years have been graded stakes winners Miss Union Avenue, Palmeiro and Afleet Again. The Abbott's retired in 2016 and sold their 160-acre farm near Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

For event details, visit vabred.org.

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For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

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West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

August 2020

Counter move: A bond of trust

By Jeff Gilleas

Winston Churchill is credited with saying, "no hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle." Horses are an inspiration to many, especially writers, because of their nobility, elegance, intelligence and independence.

In 20 years of reporting on the Charles Town Races circuit and its equine supporting cast, numerous horses have touched my soul, but none so durable as Counter Move. He may never be considered for an honorary reward or distinctive title of commendation, but people in the know realize that horses like him are the unselfish backbone of the industry.

Competing at times under less than ideal conditions, Counter Move was a blue-collar warrior who ran until the advanced age of 11. In 79 lifetime starts, the son of Vindication (by Seattle Slew), won 22 races, with 10 seconds and 12 thirds, amassing \$412,657 in earnings.

Counter Move began his career at Turfway Park (11/30/08), where at first asking he stylishly captured a 2-year-old maiden special weight. A few months later, he was relocated to Aqueduct, unveiled a change in trainers to Kiaran McLaughlin and dominated an allowance by $6\frac{1}{4}$ lengths in his second start.

In victory, a Beyer Speed Figure of 102 was recorded, setting up a date with destiny in the distinguished Bay Shore Stakes-G3. Following a less than auspicious performance, Counter Move was hastened-off to our northern neighbor, Canada. Conveyed to the barn of Daniel Vella, the good-looking gray would spend the next year and a half competing at Woodbine, eventually descending into the claiming ranks.

Once back in the states, Counter Move made the rounds of assorted minor tracks before appearing on the Charles



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Counter Move was a competitive force racing through age 11 and winning 22 of 79 starts.

Town Races doorstep in December 2011. It was here that his future would be ordained and circle of trust consolidated. Runners like Counter Move, that render productivity and exhibit heart, swap ownership frequently.

This is the claiming game, fast-paced and full of uncertainty. Horses are bought and sold like stocks on Wall Street, where hierarchies are formed in terms of quality. Counter Move tolerated those volatile surroundings, until he fortuitously discovered a thread of normalcy in exercise rider Casey Fleming. However, their relationship wasn't love at first sight.

I presume, due to years of mental and physical stress, daily racetrack etiquette became irksome to him. Thankfully, his human companion learned to cope with the ridgling's temperamental antics.

"I galloped this horse for trainers Doug Adams, Ronney Brown and the

combination of Preston Herbst and Joanna Boggs for roughly seven years," said Casey. "In the beginning, he was such an ass, an old hard-knocker that wanted to call the shots. Initially, we rejected each other. Counter Move refused to back up, jog and stand. If you didn't break him straight off, a fight ensued. I'd like to think it was patience and my set of hands that guided his misguided personality."

This writer believes it was a bond established between two individuals who knew all too well the power of hurting. In a literal sense, they discovered each other by giving up control and accepting vulnerability. Trainer Joanna Boggs has been a fixture on the Charles Town backstretch since her arrival from Oklahoma in 2002.

Hard working, honest and hands-on would easily describe the barn she



Casey Fleming and Counter Move have been a team for years.

maintains. Boggs said, "Counter Move was one of those horses you admired. He rarely threw in a bad race or needed an excuse; except he could be a terror at the starting gate. He'd try and leave the gate so hard, that many times he would stumble almost unseating the rider. I used to place a martingale on him to help keep the jockey on board. Top rider Arnaldo Bocachica said it was a lifesaver. While in my barn, the credit for keeping the veteran sound went to groom Humberto Rozas, who rubbed him for five years."

Boggs and Herbst co-parented Counter Move for longtime client Kathleen Salony.

"In my 15-year association with Kathleen, I must say she always placed the welfare of her horses first," said Boggs. "After years of competition and declining form, we considered retirement for Counter Move. Winter was approaching and track conditions would be hard on old legs. Casey had grown to love and admire him, so when the time came, we concluded our senior citizen needed to be more than just a lawn ornament. In January of 2018, Casey took possession of Counter Move and the next phase of his life began."

As the only current full-time outrider at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races, Casey is always in the market for a competent pony, but could Counter Move transition to a babysitter for the next generation of equine headaches?

Part of the problem was his uncastrated status.

Casey conducted several inquiries with multiple veterinarians before Dr. Spurlock (Spurlock Equine Associates), reluctantly agreed to attempt the operation. Out-of-pocket expenses ranged in the vicinity of \$2,000-\$2,500, to be incurred by Casey.

This was major surgery, especially for a 13-year-old horse, but it appeared to be her only option, as a heart murmur made breeding him impracticable. Casey admitted that monetarily it was a tough fiscal choice, however he had been such a big part of her life and worthy of a suitable resolution to his life's story.

Casey noted, "This wasn't an overnight process. I gave him an extended layoff at the farm, after adopting him, followed by months of instruction. Even after being gelded I wasn't sure he would be able to turn-off the natural competitor inside him. Amazingly, he has adjusted and is submissive. It's like he is there for me and won't let himself make a mistake. We've grown to know each other's limits and trust each other's judgment."

Counter to the moves that made him a noteworthy adversary in the morning, when the lights come on, the old boy now is all business.

It's not the guilt of knowing, but the honor in which they serve us, that is the claiming game. Good fortune be granted to those who provide a second chance.

Special thanks to Sherry Jackson and Casey Fleming for inspiring me to write this piece and Katherine Turnbull for her photos.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

- ◆ **The 10-10-10 program** is now called the **Supplemental Purse Award Claim**, for which there are new forms. All claims must be submitted to the WV Racing Commission within 15 days from the date the purse is awarded. Claim forms are available on the WV Racing Commission website, racing.wv.gov.
- ◆ If you are selling or planning to sell your accredited WV-bred and/or sired horse, please contact the WVTBA. The WVTBA has started supplying sellers of **accredited WV-bred and/or sired horses** with **hip stickers and stall-card stickers** to make it easier for buyers to identify these horses. Contact the WVTBA office at (304) 728-6868 or by e-mail at wvbreeders@gmail.com.
- ◆ **WV Certificates** will be issued seven to 10 days after the WVTBA receives the original registration form application, all required paperwork and payment.
- ◆ The new WVTBA office is located at 110 South George Street, Suite 4, Charles Town, WV 25414. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. More information may be found at www.wvtba.net.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Mailing address: P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868 • Fax: (304) 724-7870 • Web site: www.wvtba.net

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AUGUST 2020

Chasing

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Summer racing at Saratoga, Colonial

Steeplechase racing will be featured this month and into September with full lineups on tap at Saratoga Race Course and Colonial Downs.

Saratoga has scheduled nine hurdle races, and Colonial Downs will have 12 jump races during its season, with 10 of those races in August. The complementary programs at the two pari-mutuel tracks will provide racing opportunities for almost all hurdle divisions.

Saratoga's program will spotlight the steeplechase sport's stars and rising stars. The steeplechase action at the New York Racing Association track was to begin on Wednesday, July 22, with the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes for horses in their first seasons of racing over fences.

The sport's top division was to be in the spotlight the following afternoon, Thursday, July 23, in the A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Gr. 1).

Those divisions will be in action four weeks later in the Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes on Wednesday, Aug. 19, and the Saratoga meet's signature jump race, the New York Turf Writer Cup Handicap (Gr. 1), on Thursday, Aug. 20.

Hudson River Farms' Winston C soared to the top of the steeplechase division with runaway victories in the Smithwick and New York Turf Writers last summer and was voted the year's Eclipse Award as North America's steeplechase champion.

The world's premier summer race course, Saratoga will feature jump racing every Wednesday of its meet. In addition to the Kiser and Walsh on its Wednesday programs, Saratoga will host its first Ratings Handicap on Aug. 5. The 2 1/16-mile race will be for horses rated at 130 or lower, which encompasses all but Grade 1 contenders.

Allowance hurdles featuring steeplechasing's emerging stars will be held on Aug. 12 and Aug. 26. Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision won one

2020 NSA Summer Racing Schedule

Here is the schedule of steeplechase racing at Saratoga Race Course and Colonial Downs in August and September.

Saratoga Race Course

Race

Day and Date

Wednesday, Aug. 5
Wednesday, Aug. 12
Wednesday, Aug. 19
Thursday, Aug. 20
Wednesday, Aug. 26
Wednesday, Sept. 2

\$50,000 Ratings Handicap (130 and lower)
\$48,000 Allowance (NW 2)
\$55,000 Michael G. Walsh Novice Stakes
\$100,000 New York Turf Writers Cup (Gr. 1)
\$48,000 Allowance (NW 2)
\$50,000 Ratings Handicap (130 or lower)

Colonial Downs

Race

Day and Date

Monday, Aug. 3

Monday, Aug. 10

Monday, Aug. 17

Monday, Aug. 24

Monday, Aug. 31

\$20,000 Filly-Mare Maiden
\$20,000 Maiden
\$20,000 Maiden
\$15,000 Ratings Handicap (110 or lower)
\$20,000 Maiden (3 & 4 YO)
\$20,000 Maiden (5YO and older)
\$20,000 Filly-Mare Maiden
\$15,000 Ratings Handicap (115 or lower)
\$20,000 Maiden
\$35,000 Randolph Rouse Stakes (for fillies and mares)

of those allowance races last August and went on to become a multiple novice stakes winner, the year's novice champion, and now an open stakes winner after his victory in the Virginia Gold Cup's David Semmes Memorial on June 27.

Saratoga will conclude its 2020 steeplechase program with another Ratings Handicap on Wednesday, Sept. 2. This 2 3/8-mile race also will be limited to horses at 130 or lower.

Colonial Downs in Virginia's capital region will offer a 12-race program of jump racing on Mondays during its six-week season. At least

one maiden hurdle will be presented each week.

Maiden hurdles on Aug. 3 and Aug. 24 will be limited to fillies and mares, while an Aug. 17 race will be restricted to three- and four-year-olds.

Colonial will feature ratings handicaps on Aug. 10, Aug. 17, and Aug. 24. The meet's jump-racing season concludes with the Randolph Rouse Stakes for fillies and mares on Aug. 31. Riverdee Stable's Snowie Hill won a Colonial maiden hurdle for fillies and mares last August and came back in three weeks to score a decisive victory in the Rouse.



Go Jump Racing!





Steeplechasing bounces back with full fields and quality racing

Emerging from the coast-to-coast coronavirus lockdown, National Steeplechase Association racing hit the ground running with two Virginia race meets—the Middleburg Spring Races on June 13 and the Virginia Gold Cup on June 27—that featured 21 races in all, packed fields, and stellar performances by several of the sport's leading runners.

Both meets were run without spectators and with extensive health and safety restrictions to protect against the new coronavirus. Steeplechase fans in the United States and around the world watched all the action on two high-definition live-stream broadcasts that featured multiple camera angles, drone coverage, and expert commentary by Megan Connolly, Joe Clancy, and Richard Pitman.

Middleburg Spring kicked off the delayed season with 11 races highlighted by the \$50,000 Temple Gwathmey Handicap (Gr. 3) and the \$20,000 Middleburg Hunt Cup. Bruton Street-US's Moscato, the defending Gwathmey winner, easily collected his second straight victory at Middleburg's Glenwood Park when he drew away to an 11½-length victory under Michael Mitchell.

Belisarius closed ground late to grab second money, and Bruton Street's Rashaan finished third.

Trained by Jack Fisher, Moscato was the starting co-highweight at 152 pounds with Wendy Hendriks' Grade 1 winner Surprising Soul, who finished fifth.

Ballybristol Farm's Andi'amu, the defending timber champion, also was an easy winner when he was eased home to a 3¾-length victory under Thomas Garner. Like Moscato,



Bruton Street-US's Snap Decision, at left with jockey Sean McDermott, surged toward the lead at the last fence of the Virginia Gold Cup's David Semmes Memorial.

TOD MARKS PHOTO

Leslie Young-trained Andi'amu repeated his 2019 victory in the Middleburg Hunt Cup.

As the day's racing concluded, Racing Hall of Fame trainer stood atop the standings with three victories, including a late-running score by Hudson River Farms' Galway Kid in the \$25,000 Glenwood Hurdle, an allowance race. Gerard Galligan led the jockey standings with three straight wins in maiden hurdles.

Fisher and Mitchell, both reigning champions, came roaring back at the Virginia Gold Cup with four victories apiece to jump to the top of their respective standings. Fisher accounted for the afternoon's two stakes

races, the \$40,000 Virginia Gold Cup and the \$35,000 David Semmes Memorial over hurdles.

Doc Cebu, the 2017 and 2018 timber champion, romped home to a 12¼-length win in the Virginia Gold Cup, his first victory at four miles. Mitchell was aboard Doc Cebu, who had finished second in the Middleburg Hunt Cup for owners Charles Fenwick Jr., Mike Hankin, and Charles Noell.

Bruton Street's Snap Decision, the 2019 novice champion, made a well-timed late move under Sean McDermott to win the Semmes by 4½ lengths.

National Steeplechase Association

400 Fair Hill Drive
Elkton, Md. 21921

Phone: (410) 392-0700
Fax: (410) 392-0706

Website: www.nationalsteeplechase.com
E-mail: info@nationalsteeplechase.com

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Looking Back



Legendary Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien made the trip to Chesapeake City, Md., to scout Windfields Farm-bred yearlings in 1970.

50 years ago

■ Arriving at Windfields Farm by helicopter, famed Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien inspected the Maryland-bred yearlings offered for sale by the Chesapeake City, Md., farm and lingered most with a Northern Dancer colt out of *Lachine II. When the sale opened 10 days later, O'Brien's principal owner Charles Engelhard, with partner Garfield Weston, paid \$100,000 for

the colt. The highest price for a Maryland-bred yearling prior to the sale was \$80,000 for a *Nasrullah colt sold in 1956.

Two years earlier Engelhard had purchased Nijinsky II, trained by O'Brien and ranked the best racehorse in Europe, for \$84,000 from the Windfields sale in Canada.

■ Leematt, a 2-year-old homebred for C. Oliver

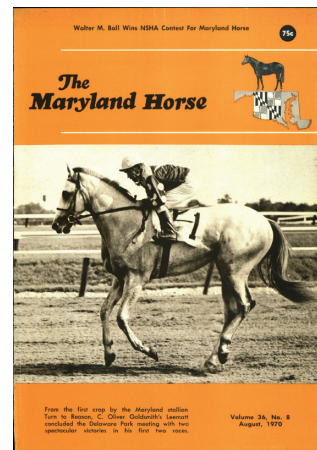
Goldsmith and his wife Jean, won his first two starts in a week at Delaware Park by a combined 14 lengths. The gray colt was from the first crop of the syndicated stallion Turn to Reason, who stood at the Goldsmiths' Longwood Farm in Glenwood, Md.

Named for the Goldsmiths' longtime employee Leroy Matthews, Leematt was out of Sun Rondeau, the dam of stakes winners Red Monk and Uncle Willie M., both who also stood at stud at Longwood.

■ For the fifth consecutive year, Maryland ranked fourth in the nation in foal production, behind Kentucky, California and Florida. In 1968, 1,269 foals were produced in Maryland, compared to Kentucky's 3,825. Virginia ranked fifth with 996. Other regional states were New Jersey (347), Pennsylvania (265), South Carolina (166), West Virginia (68), North Carolina (56) and Delaware (18).

■ Woodlawn Farm in Maryland, developed and operated for years by Walter Edgar and his family, had been transformed. "In some ways, the property has changed beyond recognition," reported Snowden Carter after a visit. "In others, it was still Woodlawn Farm."

Becoming part of the city of Columbia, the property—which included the main house and the barn which was once home to Prince Dare and other Woodlawn stakes winners—was now the Columbia Horse Center, an equestrian facility and riding academy offering lessons, camps and shows.



75 years ago

■ A month prior to Fasig-Tipton's Meadow Brook yearling sale in August, Humphrey Finney made the rounds at regional farms, inspecting yearlings and making reports.

While at Sagamore, he noted: "These are the biggest, best-grown and most promising group to be sent to the sales in a good many years." Among the 14 offered were five Discovery fillies—including those out of stakes winners Outdone and The Schemer. The comments for the Outdone (May 16) filly were: "A very nice filly, tall, rangy, a good walker with straight hind leg. Had a kick in the flank in front of the point of the hip which is healing well and does not affect the filly's sound-

ness." As for The Schemer's daughter, born April 26: "A tremendously large, plain filly, but quick as a cat for a big 'un. Has tons of bone and substance."

Among the farms Finney visited in Virginia was Abram S. Hewitt's Montana Hall, where he saw a chestnut colt by Pilate out of the John P. Grier mare Feathers. "... this is a well grown, lengthy colt of great scope and having a good set of legs and feet."

Hewitt wrote a column "The Art of Buying Yearlings" describing the vagaries of the endeavor, that was printed in the magazine. He offered a few rules about purchasing yearlings, but summed up that the suggestions "are offered as nothing more than that, in line with the belief that nobody really knows much about judging yearlings."

Sagamore's Outdone filly, sold for \$2,100, was stakes winner Miss Disco, dam of champion and legendary sire Bold Ruler; The Schemer filly—champion and multiple stakes producer Conniver—went for \$2,500. Hewitt sold his colt, champion sprinter and 14-time stakes winner Royal Governor, for \$9,200.

■ In mid-July, the Office of Defense Transportation in Washington banned the shipment of horses for racing or showing by express, railroad freight or in hired vans. Yearlings or other horses for sale were allowed to be transported by railroad freight service or by hired vans.

When the ban was issued, the majority of Maryland's owners and trainers were at two tracks—the larger outfits with higher class runners at Garden State Park in New Jersey, the others at Hagerstown, Md., for the half-mile track's 10-day meeting.

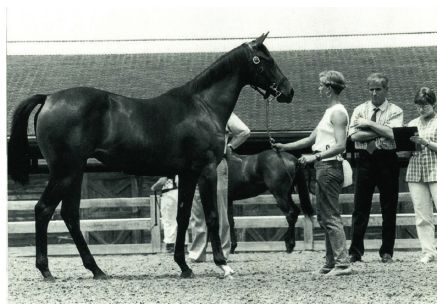
25 years ago

■ Tim Capps, who had been working as vice president of communications at Laurel Park and Pimlico, was hired to succeed Richard W. Wilcke, who was leaving the Maryland Horse Breeders Association after 10 years. Wilcke had served as the executive vice president of the MHBA, executive director of Maryland Million Ltd. and editor of *The Maryland Horse* and *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazines.

Wilcke joined the faculty of the College of Business at the University of Louisville as the Executive in Residence, working with the college's Equine Industry Program.

■ Horsemen's Bloodstock Services, the Hunt Valley, Md.-based auction firm founded two years prior, ceased operation in early June.

"It was a valiant attempt that unfortunately did not work," stated Laddie Dance, who co-founded the firm with the late John M.S. Finney. "We overestimated the need for a second auction firm in the Mid-Atlantic states."



Future stakes winner Earth to Jackie, a daughter of Polish Numbers, was Nick Zito's grand champion.

■ A daughter of freshman sire Polish Numbers out of the Lord Gaylord mare Dame Avie made quite the first impression at the 61st annual Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Yearling Show as she was crowned grand champion among 85 entries. Judged by trainer Nick Zito, the filly was owned and bred by Roger and Jackie Schipke's Colts Ltd.

The grand champion filly, named Earth to Jackie, raced for her breeders and was a three-time stakes winner of \$234,523. Descending from the famed female line of Avie, she sold as a broodmare prospect for \$350,000 at the 1999 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale

■ August Belmont, a member and former chairman of The Jockey Club and descendant of one of Thoroughbred racing's most famous families, died in July at his farm in Easton, Md. He was 86.

No moment was more special than the day Caveat, the Maryland-bred he co-owned with Jim Ryan and Robert Kirkham, captured the 1983 Belmont Stakes-G1, named for his great-grandfather.

■ After foaling and raising two Eclipse Award winners, a classic winner and dozens of stakes winners, Jim Ryan's Rye Hill Farm could boast its first runner to win \$1 million while carrying the stable's colors. Awad achieved the milestone when winning the Grade 1 Manhattan Handicap. The 5-year-old son of Caveat named for Ryan's friend, peace activist Mubarak Awad, won by a nose in 1:58.57, four-fifths off the course record for the 1¼ miles. It was Awad's ninth stakes win, six of them graded, and his second in a Grade 1, having also taken the Secretariat at Arlington Park in 1993.

10 years ago

■ After 35 years, and several million dollars, Jeffrey A. Seder and Patrice M. (Patti) Miller of EQB Inc., felt they'd finally found what separated



Patti Miller and Jeff Seder EQB Inc.

great racehorses from the common: heart and stride. Though it was a bit more complicated than that, the accomplishments of EQB-selected Informed Decision (2009 Eclipse Award champion), Forever Together (2008 Eclipse Award champion) and Eskendereya (multiple graded stakes winner) had proven the formula worked. Based in West Grove, Pa., EQB had been created by Seder in 1978.

■ With founding president Herb Moelis at the helm, Thoroughbred Charities of

America had raised and distributed over \$17 million to more than 200 charities in 38 states over 20 years. Inspired by renowned owner/breeder, and friend, Allaire duPont, Moelis and his wife Ellen had created TCA from their home on CandyLand Farm in Middletown, Del. Moelis retired as president that July and Dan Rosenberg, formerly of Three Chimneys Farm, took over the role.

■ Shared Account captured the All Along Stakes-G3, her second graded stakes victory, at Colonial Downs by a length for owner Kevin Plank's Sagamore Farm. Trained by Graham Motion, the filly had become Plank's first graded stakes winner while capturing the Lake Placid-G2 at Saratoga the previous summer.



Sagamore Farm's Shared Account added to her laurels when winning the 2010 All Along Stakes-G3 at Colonial Downs.



Old Glory. Summer fun on the farm in Maryland, circa 1945, involved two hard-working horses, a patient farmer and a hay ride.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the *Baltimore Sun* for 50 years—from 1920 until his death in 1970—captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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